FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-244
Friday
18 December 1992

Daily Report
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FBIS-EAS-92-244 *18 December 1992*

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Japan

Bush's Signing of NAFTA Agreement Reported

OW1712235992 Tokyo KYODO in English 2315 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Washington, Dec. 17 KYODO—President George Bush signed the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico on Thursday.

The White House said Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Mexican President Carlos Salinas also signed the document in ceremonies in their own countries earlier in the day.

Bush signed the 2,000-page treaty, popularly known as NAFTA, at the headquarters of the Organization of American states.

The accord, which aims to eliminate all tariffs in North America within 15 years, must be ratified by the legislatures of the three countries before January 1, 1994, when it is scheduled to go into effect.

Miyazawa Urged To Quit if Rice Market Opens

OW1812084092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0749 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa should resign if he changes Japan's decision to refuse a proposal to replace the country's rice import ban with tariffs, the head of a farm panel of the governing Liberal Democratic Party said Friday.

Tomio Yamamoto, chairman of the LDP's Research Commission on Comprehensive Agriculture, made the comment at a press conference following a meeting with Miyazawa.

Miyazawa last week hinted at accepting the tariffication scheme, saying that Japan will never destroy the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Earlier this week, Miyazawa told a group of junior Diet members of the LDP that he will decide in January whether Japan will accept the tariffication plan proposed by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Tokyo, U.S. Differ on Foreign Computer Products

OW1812142592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1334 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. negotiators differed Friday on the definition of "foreign-made" products in the talks on foreign access to computer procurements by Japanese Government organizations, government officials said. The third session of the talks, held at the Foreign Ministry, focused on ways to expand opportunities for foreign computer makers to supply their products to Japanese Government organizations, the officials said. While Japanese officials contended that computers made by overseas affiliates of Japanese companies and imported by the parent companies should be considered foreign-made, U.S. officials insisted that they are Japanese products.

Tariff Cuts in Line With U.S. Accord Proposed

OW1812134992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—A government panel on Friday called for a simplification of tariffs for small parcel imports in order to speed up customs clearance processing.

In its recommendation to the finance minister, the Customs Tariff Council also proposed reductions in tariffs on potato flakes and some other products in accordance with the Japan-U.S. bilateral trade agreement on trade in starch. The Finance Ministry plans to implement the steps in April 1993, ministry officials said.

The simplified tariffs will be applied to small parcels with total taxable values of 100,000 yen or less. Such small parcels are increasing rapidly due to growing imports by individuals.

The panel said the number of classifications for determining tariffs should be reduced to 12 from the current 6,800 or so for such parcels. The step is aimed at speeding up the customs clearance process and also at augmenting law enforcement against illegal imports of guns and drugs by lightening the work of customs officials.

Under the simplified tariff scheme, all kinds of whiskey, for instance, would be subject to a tariff of 150 yen per liter. Currently, whiskey is classified into six categories, like bourbon and scotch, and taxed differentially.

Items like coffee, tea, and leather products would be subject to a single 20 percent tariff, while a 5 percent tariff would be levied on chemical fiber textiles and plastic products.

The panel also suggested that the government also consider a cut in the tariff on raw sugar in fiscal 1994 in the face of growing imports of sugared foods.

Revision of Patent, Utility Model Laws Proposed

OW1812104792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1010 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—A government panel proposed Friday revision of the patent and utility model laws with a view to seeking international harmonization of patent systems, patent office officials said.

The Industrial Property Council, an advisory body to the minister of international trade and industry, proposed abandoning the correction system, which allows the addition of new contents after patent applications have been submitted, with an aim to shortening the relatively longer period for patent examinations than abroad, the officials said.

The council also proposed to scrap examinations for utility models as well as to shorten the term of their validity to six years from the current 10 years, they said.

The patent office will submit a bill on proposed revision of the laws to the next regular Diet session to put the revised laws into effect in early 1994, they said. It would be the first sweeping revision in 35 years since 1959, they said.

Meanwhile, the council reported its proposal to raise patent application fees by 50 percent and registration fees by 40 percent, they said.

The hike, the first since 1987, will boost the application fee to 21,000 yen from the current 14,000 yen, while the registration fee will rise to 13,000 yen for the basic fee plus 1,400 yen per case as compared with the current 9,300 yen and 1,000 yen, they said.

Maritime Safety Agency To Patrol East China Sea

OW1812101092 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 16 Dec 92 Morning Edition p 23

[Text] Tokyo— Cases of threatening shots by unidentified ships have been successively reported on the sea off the Diaoyutai Islands [Senkaku Islands] and Kumejima Island. In this connection, the Guard and Rescue Department of the Maritime Safety Agency [MSA] has decided to deploy large-type patrol boats to the area by adjusting operation of those patrol boats which are now deployed to many parts of Japan. This special measure will be the second case since last May when a similar measure was taken. However, according to the department, it is impossible to arrest or crack down on the unidentified ships under Japanese laws because these cases have occurred on international waters. Therefore, the current measure of deploying patrol boats is aimed at preventing threatening shots and cases of chase.

Large-type patrol boats will be regularly deployed to the area in place of patrol boats of the 11th Regional Maritime Safety Headquarters, which now patrol the area. According to the MSA's plan, one boat will be engaged in regular patrol in the area. Such a measure had been taken for about four months from May. Moreove if the situation becomes strained, the MSA intends to increase the number of patrol boats.

On the other hand, all the cases have been reported on international waters. Under international treaties and internal laws, measures can be taken only against cases of piracy and ramming of Japanese ships but not against threatening attacks. Therefore, the only thing that the MSA can do is to take precautions by deploying patrol boats.

The Guard and Rescue Department has observed that the unidentified ships have something to do with such acts as offshore shipping of foreign-made tobacco by foreign ships, including Chinese ships. On the other hand, a Taiwanese paper has reported that such offshore shipping is now being conducted on the eastern waters because the lid on such acts has been tightened. Therefore, the MSA calls on Japanese boats, which are engaged in fishing in such areas, to make constant reports on their location and to clearly display Japanese flag.

Patrol boat "Satsuma," which belongs to the 10th Regional Maritime Safety Headquarters (located in Kagoshima Prefecture), will be deployed to the area on 16 December. Moreover, patrol by airplanes will still continue.

$100 Million Allocated for UN Somali Operation

OW1812020692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0143 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Japan will provide 100 million dollars to the U.S.-led multinational force seeking to safeguard relief supplies in Somalia, government officials said Friday.

The cabinet decided at a regular meeting to disburse the amount from the fiscal 1992 budget's reserve fund, the officials said.

It is the second such contribution to a multinational force, following the payment of 11 billion dollars to U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf war.

Unlike that assistance, Japan is not setting any conditions on how the money to Somalia is spent, meaning it could be used to purchase weapons and ammunition, they said.

Foreign Ministry officials said they decided on the amount after assessing how long the operation of the multinational force is likely to last.

They said some 800 million dollars to 900 million dollars is likely to be necessary for the operation during the next two or three months.

The U.S. Defense Department has said the U.S. Marines, which comprise the largest element in the force, need 300 miilion dollars to 400 million dollars.

Tokyo also plans to settle on a plan to send personnel to Somalia and neighboring countries after a government fact-finding mission returns home.

The mission, headed by Yoshiji Nogami, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, is currently visiting Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya through December 24 to assess the feasibility of directly rendering relief assistance.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told the cabinet that Japan has "a duty as a responsible member of the international community" and expressed willingness to send Japanese personnel to Somalia.

After studying the reports of the mission, the Foreign Ministry will consider ways to cooperate in humanitarian assistance, such as helping refugees and in the medical field, and also to participate in U.N.-led peacekeeping activities in Somalia, Watanabe said.

Pakistan's Sharif Continues Visit Activities

Briefs Group on Economic Reforms

BK1712123992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said business environment in Pakistan is changing

rapidly and opportunities for investment are expanding. He was addressing the Federation of Japanese Economic Organization at a luncheon meeting in Tokyo today. The prime minister said Pakistan's trade and investment links with Japan could grow rapidly in the coming years because of the government's far-reaching reforms to convert Pakistan from a close and inward-looking system into an open and market- oriented economy.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the basic thrust of the economic reforms is on privatization and deregulation which are designed to encourage both foreign and domestic private investment. He said foreign investment has been deregulated with permission to own up to 100 percent equity and complete freedom of repatriation of capital and profit without any approval. Exchange control on investment and foreign borrowing has been withdrawn. No license or permit is needed for import of materials for capital goods. All restrictive practices have been phased out. The prime minister said his government has given legal cover to all these measures and guaranteed that all private investments—domestic or foreign—in Pakistan would remain safe.

Meets With Miyazawa on 17 Dec

BK1712150792 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] In Tokyo today, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has held wide-ranging talks with his Japanese counterpart, Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa, on expansion of economic cooperation and close coordination in international affairs. Continued Indian atrocities in the occupied Kashmir and demolition and desecration of the Babri Masjid [mosque] also came up under discussion. As the prime minister arrived for the talks, he was warmly greeted by the Japanese prime minister. Before the talks, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif signed the visitors book. The two leaders posed for some photographs. The 90-minute talks were in-depth and cordial. The two leaders were assisted by their close aides.

During the talks, the prime minister impressed upon his Japanese counterpart that Pakistan's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes and it has no plans to manufacture weapons. He informed the Japanese prime minister that no one should have the slightest apprehension about Pakistan's nuclear program, which is geared to meet its growing needs for electricity. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif also briefed Japanese prime minister about the massive atrocities and violations of human rights by India in occupied Kashmir. Mr. Miyazawa expressed the hope for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue.

Later, the prime minister described the talks as very productive, useful, and satisfactory. He said Pakistan is thankful to Japan for its announcement of $100-million aid to Pakistan for the rehabilitation of flood-affected people and for the restoration of the infrastructure damaged by the recent floods.

Later, addressing a news conference, the prime minister said that Pakistan, besides ensuring nuclear nonproliferation, will like all countries in the region cut down their expenditures on conventional weapons. Replying to a question, he said:

[Begin Sharif recording] Pakistan wants to live very peacefully with its neighbors and would like to have friendly ties with its neighbors. India, of course, is a country which is Pakistan's neighbor and has exploded a nuclear device in 1974. Pakistan has never done so and we do not intend doing so. But you see that we have already given a proposal for a nuclear nonproliferation treaty in South Asia. This proposal is a five-nation proposal which says that America, Russia, and China should get together and consult with India and Pakistan and find a solution to this problem. India is a country which has rejected this proposal, has not accepted it. We would like India to support this proposal and through this proposal, we can certainly achieve the objective of having a nonproliferated regime in South Asia. [end recording]

The Japanese prime minister informed his Pakistani counterpart that during the forthcoming Japan-India bilateral meeting in February, Japan will impress upon the Indian leaders to halt and curb its nuclear program and [word instinct]. He said Japan will reconsider the continuation or otherwise of its economic assistance to India in the light of the outcome of the February talks. Pakistan Television representative Shakoor Tahir reports from Tokyo that the Japanese press and senior politicians are highly apprehensive of the Indian nuclear program and its potential to develop nuclear weapons.

Calls Talks Useful, Purposeful

BK1712152392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Formal talks between the prime ministers of Pakistan and Japan were held in Tokyo this morning. The promotion of economic cooperation and creation of close coordination in policies on various aspects of global affairs were particularly discussed during the talks, apart from bilateral affairs and issues of mutual interest. Addressing a news conference, the prime minister described his talks with the Japanese prime minister as useful and purposeful. He said that Japan has expressed readiness to provide a $100 million aid for rehabilitation and restoration of the infrastructure damaged by recent floods. Apart from this, talks are progressing satisfactorily for a $400 million dollar aid program.

When asked as to what steps Pakistan has been taking to deal with the situation arising out of the Indian nuclear explosion in 1974, the prime minister said that Pakistan's nuclear program is purely for peaceful purposes and it is aimed at meeting increasing energy needs. Pakistan, since 1974, had been demanding at the UN General Assembly for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in this region. Not only this, Pakistan has also presented a proposal for a five-nation agreement on nuclear nonproliferation. But India opposed it, while the United States, Russia, and China supported the proposal.

Referring to the NBC report on Pakistan's nuclear program, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan's official stand should be accepted instead of the propaganda. He said that I understand that the Japanese believe us. Prime Minister Miyazawa promised that he would raise the issue of India's nuclear program during his talks with the Indian leaders in February. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that obviously the Japanese leadership is concerned about the Indian nuclear program and it is time that Japan exerts pressure on India to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. He said that Pakistan wants that apart from nuclear nonproliferation in the region, all regional countries should also curtail their defense expenditures on conventional weapons as well so that they can utilize their resources in providing basic amenities to their people. He said that Pakistan will take steps only for its defense and will not have unnecessary spending on defense because it wants peaceful relations with all its neighbors.

The prime minister said that he apprised the Japanese prime minister of atrocities and massive and serious violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir. He said that India failed to fulfill its pledge to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir. Human rights are being trampled in the occupied region and the Kashmiri people are being deprived of their right to self-determination. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif urged the world community to stop India from carrying out oppression and atrocities in the occupied Kashmir and grant the people of the disputed territory their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN resolutions. He told the Japanese leader that relations between Pakistan and India will improve if the Kashmir issue is resolved according to the UN resolutions. It will therefore help in dealing with the dispute on the nuclear issue and all problems between the two neighboring countries will also be resolved.

On the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque in the hands of fanatic Hindus in India, the prime minister said that he raised the issue during the talks and also told the Japanese prime minister that more than 1,100 people were killed after the demolition of the mosque. The prime minister said that investors in Pakistan are being given far more facilities compared to other countries. The investment climate is very conducive and the Japanese investors can expect useful cooperation.

Urges Investment in Pakistan

BK1812150892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the combination of an open deregulated economy with a substantial improvement of infrastructure has created a very favorable environment for investment in Pakistan. He was inaugurating the Pakistan investment promotion seminar in Tokyo today. The seminar was attended by a large number of chief executives of major Japanese industrial and business organizations, banks, and financial institutions. Addressing the seminar, the prime minister said:

[Begin Sharif recording] The basic thrust of the reform program is privatization and deregulation, and its aim is to reduce the role of the public sector in industrial and commercial activities and to increase it in social sectors. In this way, it should be possible to accelerate the rate of investment and growth in the economy through the private sector and at the same time achieve more balanced development by devoting larger resources to education, health, and other social sectors. This combination of an open deregulated economy with the substantial improvement of infrastructure and an inexpensive, but trained work force have created a favorable environment in Pakistan. Foreign investment has doubled in the last financial year ending June 1992. But we expect much faster growth in the coming years. I am confident that with the dynamic and farsighted approach to business, Japanese investors will participate actively in these expanding opportunities. [applause] [end recording]

The prime minister invited Japanese industrialists and businessmen to invest in Pakistan because it is rapidly emerging as one of the most attractive and profitable places in business. Foreign investment has doubled in the last financial year. We expect much faster growth in the coming years.

The prime minister's speech was followed by a question-answer session. The Japanese business leaders asked questions about the investment opportunities and facilities, law and order, prospects of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], and issues like Kashmir. The prime minister referred to various incentives for foreign investors and said these are far ahead as compared to those offered by other countries, even European ones. Pakistan is a gateway to Central Asia.

The prime minister said there is no law and order problem in Pakistan. About differences with India, he said this is because Kashmir is the core issue. India refuses to give the right of self-determination to Kashmiri people. Pakistan, he said, wants to resolve the issue through peaceful means. The prime minister invited a Japanese business leaders' delegation to visit Pakistan. He said an investment bureau will be established in Tokyo. Till such time, a special cell will be working in the Pakistani Embassy in Tokyo to help promote investments in Pakistan. Earlier, the chairman of Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr. (Rokuro Ishikawa), in his welcome remarks lauded the economic reforms initiated in Pakistan. Pakistan Television correspondent Shakoor Tahir reports from Tokyo that the investment seminar was a great success as it was participated in by top business leaders. This indicates the interest of Japanese industrialists and businessmen in investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Peres Urges Establishment of Strong Trade Ties

OW1712064992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 17 KYODO—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Thursday that Japanese business would not prompt an Arab boycott if it establishes stronger trading ties with Israel.

Speaking at a news conference in Tokyo at the end of what he described as four days of "bridge building" in Japan, Peres urged Japan to follow the example of the United States and Europe, which he said retain strong business links with both Israel and Arab countries.

"The other countries do not lose Arab business," said Peres.

"They have gained. There is no contradiction between doing business with the Arabs and Israel simultaneously, as a matter of fact."

Peres said he had been "impressed" with a lack of accuracy in Japanese understanding of Israel during talke with Japanese officials in the government and private sector.

He said during the discussions, he got the impression that information about Israel reached Japan after being "filtered" through television during the Gulf war and has left lasting images of a country hit by Iraqi Scud missiles.

"But the reality is drip irrigation, massive immigration and economic development," Peres said.

During his visit, Peres, accompanied by Jacob Frenkel, governor of the Central Bank of Israel, met Emperor Akihito, high-ranking government members including Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, as well as representatives of the tourist and banking sectors.

Peres said he hopes that bilateral tourism and trade will be stimulated by negotiations he had during his visit, including those relating to air transport, the elimination of double taxation, and cultural relations.

"We did not come to ask for any credit lines," Peres said. "We did not come to ask for any money lines."

"We came to build the foundations of a relationship between our two countries.

"The Middle East needs an economy that can produce money."

"I do believe the Middle East can produce an economy if we shall do the right things."

Peres said discussions with the Japanese Government included the possibility of Israel joining the Asian Development Bank, Japan's role in the Middle East peace process, and Israeli concern over developments in Iran.

In a reference to followers of the former spiritual and political leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini, Peres said the export of fundamentalist "Khomeini-ism" from Iran is a threat to stability in the Middle East.

"Khomeini-ism has many of the features which so worried us with communism," Peres said.

"A fanatic ideology, self righteousness and a sense that you have a commission to kill and export the ideology."

"They have a substantial income from oil and a desire to build a nuclear option. We did express our concern about the Iranian tendencies."

Takeshita Faction of LDP Breaks Up 18 Dec

OW1812003692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0021 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—The largest faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) split into two factions Friday with the inauguration of a new faction led by former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata.

The breakup of the faction, which was founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, ends its five-year dominant rule of the LDP.

Forty-four Diet members loyal to former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa attended the ceremony at a Tokyo hotel. The Hata faction became the fifth-largest group in the 380-member party.

The resignation of Shin Kanemaru, former LDP vice president, in October as a House of Representatives member and head of the Takeshita faction triggered a power struggle within the faction between the pro-Ozawa followers and the anti-Ozawa group led by former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi.

Former kingpin Kanemaru was forced to resign after he admitted receiving 500 million yen in political contributions linking him to the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal.

The pro-Ozawa group formed a policy study group, "Reform Forum 21," after Obuchi was endorsed as the new faction chairman to succeed Kanemaru. The Ozawa camp had backed Hata as faction chairman.

In July 1987, Takeshita formed the bloc formally called "Keisei- Kai." Kanemaru assumed chairmanship of the faction in the same year after Takeshita became prime minister. The faction has installed three subsequent prime ministers, including Kiichi Miyazawa.

The Keisei-Kai group which is now headed by Obuchi dropped to the fourth-largest faction within the LDP with about 60 members.

The 74-member faction led by Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the LDP Policy Affairs Research Council, becomes the largest power bloc following the breakup of the Takeshita faction.

The Miyazawa faction is the second largest, comprising 73 Diet members, followed by the faction led by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe with 66 members.

Other LDP factions include the 29-member grouping led by former State Minister Toshio Komoto and the 13-member group led by former Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Mutsuki Kato.

New Faction Leader Wants 'New Political Order'

OW1812054392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0526 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata led 44 Diet members in a breakaway from the largest faction of the Liberal Democratic Party

(LDP) on Friday, declaring he aims to create a new political order that can better fulfill Japan's growing international responsibilities.

The disintegration of the faction, founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, marks the end of a five-year era during which premiers were installed and sometimes ousted at the will of the dominant faction's leadership.

At an inaugural meeting attended by 44 Diet members loyal to former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, Hata said his goal is to eradicate secretive back-room politics, and to raise Japan's political profile in the international arena.

To do so, he told a news conference at a Tokyo hotel, he intends to press for radical political reforms that could pave the way for a realignment of political parties.

Shigeto Nagano, a member of the Executive Committee of the new faction, formally called "Reform Forum 21," said that the group aims to trigger the splitting up of the LDP into two conservative parties over several years to increase the likelihood of a change in the ruling party.

The LDP has ruled Japan continuously since its formation in 1955.

Hajime Ishii, also a member of the committee, said the group, now the fifth-largest faction, plans to dissolve after first reforming the election system.

Under the current electoral system of constituencies with three to five seats, it is common to have several LDP candidates from different factions running against each other as rivals.

Observers have blamed the system for costly electioneering, lack of open debate on policy issues, and corruption such as the recent Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal.

The latest scandal triggered the dissolution of the leading faction after LDP power broker Shin Kanemaru resigned, sparking a power struggle between pro-Ozawa members and an anti-Ozawa group led by former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi.

Kanemaru, a former LDP vice president, quit parliament in disgrace in October after admitting he received 500 million yen in undeclared political contributions from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin parcel delivery firm.

Hata told a news conference that such money scandals were inevitable as long as the current political system remains unchanged.

He said he would not intervene with drastic reforms pledged by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The group signaled that it intends to promote Japanese leadership in protecting the global environment and assisting economic development of other countries, but details on its pledges to strike a more proactive and independent stance on foreign policy issues remained sketchy.

Hata said that Japan must free itself from the idea that it is a member of the "Western camp," but he said the group had not yet agreed on where Japan fits into the evolving world order.

The United States will continue to be the focus of Japan's international relations, said the faction's policy committee chairman, Kazuo Aichi, adding that he had just returned from a visit to Washington where he sought to cultivate ties with members of the U.S. Congress.

The future of the group depends in large part on how many seats it can clinch in the next general election, which must be held before February 1994.

The faction's election committee chairman, Keisuke Nakanishi, said the group would appeal to voters next year to support its reform plans in an intensive series of nationwide forums and debates.

On the disintegration of the Takeshita clique, LDP Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Hiroshi Mitsuzuka's 74-member faction becomes the LDP's largest grouping.

It is followed by Miyazawa faction, with 73 Diet members, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's faction, with 66 members, and Obuchi's faction, which has about 60 members.

Other LDP factions are the 29-member grouping led by former State Minister Toshio Komoto and the 13-member group led by former Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Mutsuki Kato. The LDP has 380 Diet members.

Hata Hints Faction May Form Political Party

OW1812133892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1303 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will not dissolve the powerful House of Representatives and call general elections before the Tokyo economic summit in July, the leader of a new ruling party faction said Friday.

Former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata made the prediction in interviews with KYODO News Service and other news organizations after launching the new faction with 43 other Diet members in a breakaway from the largest faction of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Hata noted that the four-year terms of lower house members end in February 1994, but acknowledged calls for general elections before that.

However, general elections are unlikely before the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries on July 7-9, he said.

Asked about the LDP's political reform proposals, Hata said he has told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa his new faction plans to become the "core" of the political reform campaign aimed at preventing a repeat of a money-and-mob scandal that has shaken the governing party.

Hata hinted in the interviews that his faction may form a new political party if the LDP fails to implement drastic

political reform. He said some members of opposition parties are also dissastified with the status quo and in favor of such political reform.

At an inaugural meeting attended by 44 Diet members loyal to former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, Hata said his goal is to eradicate back-room politics, and to raise Japan's political profile in the international arena.

Hata told a news conference at a Tokyo hotel he intends to press for radical political reforms that could pave the way for a realignment of political parties.

The Takeshita faction broke up after LDP power broker Shin Kanemaru resigned, sparking a power struggle between pro-Ozawa members and an anti-Ozawa group led by former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi.

Kanemaru, a former LDP vice president, left parliament in disgrace in October after admitting he received 500 million yen in undeclared political contributions from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin parcel delivery firm.

Resignation of Vice Posts Minister Approved

OW1812133392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Friday approved the resignation of the parliamentary vice posts and telecommunications minister who opposed the new posts minister's bid to scuttle a plan to raise the ceiling on special tax-exempt savings accounts.

The resignation of Takashi Sasagawa subsequently was endorsed by all cabinet ministers, government officials said.

Sasagawa, a House of Representatives legislator from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), submitted a letter of resignation to protest new Posts and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Koizumi's opposition to a plan to raise the ceiling on the so-called tax-exempt savings accounts from the current 3 million to 7 million yen.

The special privilege is given to elderly or disabled people and fatherless households as long as their savings accounts at banks and post offices stay below the 3 million yen each. Sasagawa said Koizumi's opposition to a higher ceiling constituted a reversal of a policy change that has been favored by most of the ministry's senior bureaucrats.

Immediately after being sworn into his new office, Koizumi said he opposed raising the ceiling because it would be unfair by benefitting only a handful of wealthy senior citizens whose deposits may exceed the current limit.

Miyazawa plans to keep vacant the post Sasagawa gave up until early next year, when he plans to reshuffle all the parliamentary vice ministers in government ministries and agencies, they said.

They said the shake-up is expected to take place shortly after the Diet passes the budget for fiscal 1993, which starts April 1.

North Korea

JNCC Meeting Date To Be Discussed Over Hotline

SK1712152592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Panmunjom December 17 (KCNA) - The 13th meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] was held at the Tongil House in the North side's portion of Panmunjom today.

The North side noted at the meeting that the South side persistently turned down our just demand for the withdrawal of its agreement with the U.S. to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres which are incompatible with the North-South dialogue before December 15 and, on the contrary, became more undisguised in its scheme to resume the nuclear war game, thus making the implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearisation and North-South inspection recede farther, making it impossible to open the joint committees in different domains within the year and driving the 9th inter-Korean high-level talks scheduled to begin on December 21 into a danger of collapse.

The North side pointed out that the attempt of the South side to force the "Team Spirit" war game by linking it with nuclear inspection was, in the final analysis, aimed at barring the implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearisation and avoiding nuclear inspection.

Our side strongly urged the South side to withdraw the agreement with the U.S. to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a nuclear war rehearsal, stop at once the criminal development of nuclear weapons and open its truth to the public at home and abroad, as demanded by the whole nation, if it had the real intention to implement the joint declaration on denuclearization.

The South side, avoiding a responsible answer to this, tried to justify the military exercises it was planning to stage with the outside forces.

Stating that the South side was entirely to blame for the delay of the discussion of the inspection rules, too, the North side stressed:

It is proved well by the fact that the South side is trying to exclude the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases from the objects of inspection, include in the objects civilian facilities and ordinary military bases which are not stipulated in the agreed points and it is afraid of clarifying the truth of its development of nuclear weapons.

Concluding the meeting, our side strongly urged the South side to immediately withdraw the step to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises aimed at bringing the North-South relations back to the original point of confrontation and inflicting nuclear holocaust upon the nation and report the truth behind its development of nuclear weapons to the Joint Nuclear Control Committee next time.

The date of the next meeting could not be designated due to the unreasonable attitude of the South side and it was agreed to discuss it through the hot-line.

Paper Berates Japan's Nakasone as 'Nuclearmaniac'

SK1812052692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 18 Dec 92

["Sinister Intention of Nuclearmaniac"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang dec. 18 (KCNA)—Former Japanese prime minister, Nakasone, recently talked about "nuclear threat" from the DPRK and said that it would be settled through what he called "international cooperation".

His utterances betray the sinister intention of the Japanese ruling quarters to join the United States in putting a collective pressure upon our republic on the international scene in order to isolate it and stifle our socialist system by force, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary Friday.

The news analyst brands Nakasone's outcry over "nuclear threat" from our republic as an ill-intentioned distortion of facts and a falsehood which does not stand to reason, and goes on:

The nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula is attributable to the U.S. shipment of nuclear arms into South Korea. The removal of the nuclear threat from the Korean peninsula requires an all-round inspection of U.S. nuclear bases and arms in South Korea and complete withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from there.

If Nakasone were really interested in the removal of nuclear threat from the Korean peninsula and preservation of peace, he should have called for the pullout of U.S. nuclear weapons.

He, however, raised a hue and cry over non-existent "nuclear threat" from our republic, keeping mum about such cardinal issue as the U.S. nuclear withdrawal. This shows that he is playing the role of a mouthpiece defending the U.S. policy of turning South Korea into a nuclear base and provoking a nuclear war in Korea.

Nakasone is not in a position to poke his nose into the nuclear problem in Korea.

He himself is a nuclearmaniac. An advocate of arms expansion, he argued that Japan should possess nuclear arms and actively promoted nuclear armament programme in secrecy and got over-heated in following the U.S. strategy of nuclear war while in office.

Such nuclearmaniac stringed out rubbish about an "international solution" of someone's "nuclear suspicion." He sought in this to cover up the manoeuvrings of the Japanese Government authorities to push ahead with nuclear armament.

If Japan provoke others impudently, it will only cause greater suspicion and guard of the world against Japan's nuclear armament.

South Berated on Economic, Nuclear Issues

SK1812063892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 18 Dec 92

["Ridiculous Hokum"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities who are trying by hook or by crook to impede the implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization, making a bluff, connect the "nuclear problem" with "economic cooperation", inviting the ridicule of people. They reportedly said they would not "consider South-North economic cooperation" without the solution of the "nuclear problem". This is a foolish protestation.

What the South Korean authorities call "nuclear problem", needless to say, is an expedient to shift on to the North side the blame for the failure to implement the joint declaration on denuclearization and cover up the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea.

It does not need further explanation that if the nuclear problem is to be solved on the Korean peninsula, the U.S. nuclear weapons must be taken out of South Korea and an overall inspection be made of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases there to verify their withdrawal.

The South Korean authorities, having raised quite a row over the fictitious "nuclear problem" of the North, are now foolishly trying to put pressure on the North with "economic cooperation".

These days the South Korean authorities are busy peddling "economic cooperation" as if they have a fat purse to do others a favor. Are they really wealthy enough to make such a bluff?

The Bulgarian paper TRIBUNA October 22 compared the economy of South Korea to "soap bubbles", saying that South Korea produces no more than 40 percent of foodstuffs and 30 percent of power for itself and is weighed down with 40 billion dollars of foreign debts.

The South Korean paper KYUNGHYANG DAILY NEWS November 25 deplored that the figures showing the "economic growth rate" recently published in South Korea were on the "lowest level" which even the authorities who had committed themselves to the "removal of bubble phenomenon" did not expect and that this clearly proved the slowdown in business.

Are the South Korean authorities in a position to do others something like a "favour"?

It is stupid of anyone to want "a favour" from a person teetering on a financial ruin.

As far as economic cooperation between the North and South is concerned, it is a matter of promoting a unified and balanced development of the national economy and the welfare of the entire nation, as specified in the North-South agreement.

The South Korean authorities, ignoring the spirit of the North-South agreement and unreasonably connecting

"economic cooperation" with the "nuclear problem", dare attempt to threaten the North. This criminal act can never be condoned.

U.S. 'Secret' Defense Plan Reported

SK1812120592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist nuclear fanatics are making their aggression forces present in South Korea "prepare themselves for action under condition of a nuclear war," a South Korean radio correspondent reported from New York.

This fact was made known by a secret plan of the U.S. Defense Department worked out to cope with the situation on the Korean peninsula in the five years to come, the radio said.

The fact that the U.S. Defense Department has worked out the secret plan intended to provoke a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and is putting its aggression forces in South Korea in readiness for a nuclear war is a very grave development which cannot be overlooked.

Facts show that the South Korean chief executive's "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons" was a lie to deceive the public and the announcement of the United States that it would "withdraw tactical nuclear weapons" from its overseas bases including South Korea was an empty talk. This tells that the aggressive Korea policy of the U.S. imperialists for using South Korea as a hotbed of nuclear war has not changed at all but they are stepping it up with greater zeal.

Facts also tell that it is not accidental that the United States and the South Korean authorities are scheming to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises even by bringing to a deadlock the multi-channeled North-South dialogues, and this brings into bolder relief the danger of The "Team Spirit" war game, a test nuclear war.

Meanwhile, the U.S. imperialists, timed to coincide with the exposure of the secret plan for provoking a nuclear war, zealously launched into a black propaganda, alleging that the DPRK has "secured" plutonium enough to produce one nuclear weapon, a report said.

This is a hackneyed propaganda ballyhoo meant to cover up their criminal moves and justify their policy of turning South Korea into a nuclear base.

The Korean people will never pardon the criminal attempts of the U.S. imperialists to impose a nuclear holocaust on the Korean peninsula and the criminal scheme of the South Korean anti-national elements to prolong their remaining days under the protection of the U.S. "nuclear umbrella".

Agricultural Union Decries ROK Nuclear Weapons

SK1812044992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea published a statement Thursday denouncing the development of nuclear weapons promoted by the South Korean authorities in secrecy.

Noting that the South Korean authorities have brought more than 1,000 pieces of U.S. nuclear weapons into South Korea and, as if it were not enough, have promoted the development of nuclear arms in secrecy, the statement brands this as an unpardonable crime which can be committed only by the heinous traitors to the nation.

These days, the statement says, the South Korean authorities are insidiously trying to mislead public opinion and evade nuclear inspection, crying for "inspection of ordinary military bases", "inspection of the same number" and "special inspection" at the North-South joint nuclear control committee in an effort conceal the U.S. nuclear weapons shipped into South Korea and the truth of their nuclear development.

It is a foolish dream for the South Korean ruling quarters to try to attain their crafty purpose by deceiving the nation and the people of the world, it says, stressing:

They must honestly admit the truth of their anti-national nuclear development, though belatedly, apologize to the fellow countrymen and mankind and promptly give up the dangerous nuclear arms development.

Statement by League of Socialist Working Youth

SK1712020692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 16 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea issued a statement today regarding the truth behind the development of nuclear weapons by the South Korean authorities which was exposed by the "Open letter on the Truth Behind Nuclear Weapons Development in South Korea" published by the Central Committee of the South Korean national democratic front (Hanminjon).

The statement brands the development of nuclear weapons by the South Korean military fascist elements as an anti-national, anti-peace crime of plunging the whole nation into the scourge of a nuclear war and refusing peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

The South Korean authorities, not content with massive shipments of U.S. nuclear weapons, are stepping up nuclear development. Yet they were shameless enough to issue a false "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons" in South Korea, and are hampering the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization, raising a terrific hue and cry over the North's fictitious "nuclear problem," it says, and goes on:

Now they cannot deny the fact that their exclaimed clamor over "nuclear suspicion" against our republic washe crafty and sinister artifice to conceal their nuclear devagopment and divert the world's attention to the North.

They must accede to an overall nuclear inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases and objects of nuclear arms development in South Korea.

Whatever the nuclear danger is removed and peace is guaranteed on the Korean peninsula, or not, entirely depends on their attitude.

Meeting of Military Chiefs in South Denounced

SK1712122192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0520 GMT 17 Dec 92

["Trite Line of Confontation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 17 (KCNA)—The South Korean military bosses recently called "meetings of principal commanders of the navy, the army and the airforce" in succession and discussed the questions of reinforcing the armed forces and intensifying military operations, crying that "a combat posture" must be taken to cope with the "event of contingency" and "spurs must be put on far-sighted army building". This reveals their sinister intention to materialize their wild design of "unify the country by prevailing over communism with strength", says a MINJU CHOSON analyst today. He goes on: Though the North and the South signed the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange and promised nonaggresion, the South Korean rulers in disregard of it, are working to step up preparations of war against the North. This is a treacherous act against peace and reunification, an act to bring the inter-Korean relations back to the original point of confrontation.

It is not fortuitous that the South Korean authorities, as if so many U.S. nuclear weapons shipped into South Korea were not enough, decided to go ahead with the development of nuclear arms, increase the "defence budget" for the next year by 1,900 million dollars above this year for the "increase of the combat power" and resume next year the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres which have been suspended this year.

The danger of war is ever growing in Korea owing to the South Korean authorities' reckless military line, their policy of war.

As long as the South Korean military group seeks confrontation with the North, the situation of the country will be steadily rendered strained, peace be constantly endangered and big obstacles will remain in the way of reunification, says the analyst.

Japanese Authorities Said To 'Cover Up Crimes'

SK1812111792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 18 Dec 92

["Blackest Crimes Ever in History Cannot be Overlooked"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—The Japanese authorities, are now shamelessly trying to cover up the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean people in the past and evade worldwide denunciation.

Commenting on this, a MINJU CHOSON analyst today says:

Materials proving that the "organizational control of the Korean comfort women for the army" by old Japan started before 1933 were disclosed and the fact that the Japanese army used Koreans in living body test for the development of germ weapons during the sino-Japanese war was brought into light. The Japanese authorities, however whitewashed old Japan's brutalities in aggression at the U.N. General Assembly and claimed that they were making efforts for the settlement of the problem of the "comfort women for the army" at the DPRK-Japan talks.

Worse still, they have put pressure on members of the United Nations Subcommittee on human rights to keep the problem from being discussed at the U.N., the analyst says, and goes on:

The Japanese authorities are still refusing to admit old Japan's wartime crimes and trying to bury them in oblivion by all means. This indicates that they are going to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors who made themselves infamous with aggression and massacre.

Japan that has pushed ahead with arms buildup under the cloak of "peace" railroaded a bill on the overseas dispatch of troops through the diet to start its military interference in international disputes.

Japan must act with discretion, mindful of its serious historical lesson.

Japanese-Born Women Send Letter to Kim Chong-il

SK1812060492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a letter from 41 Japanese women residing in Wonsan city, Kangwon Province. [passage omitted]

They say in the letter that they have led a happy life without any worries under the Korean-style socialist system since they followed their Korean husbands into the embrace of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il some 30 years ago.

It notes that the dear leader has trained them to be members of the Workers' Party of Korea, people's deputies and dignified members of society.

They write they keenly feel that today's happiness and honour are possible only under the care of the dear leader.

In December 1990, the dear leader took care that they, mere housewives, were treated like those who rendered merited services to the state, the letter notes, and adds that when they assisted the builders of a power station in order to repay his deep loving care, he personally extended thanks to them on November 11.

They stress that the dear leader is their parent and their motherland is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea though they were born Japanese.

They say they are firmly convinced that their socialist motherland is immortal as long as it is guided by the dear leader.

They declare in their letter that they will be filial daughters of the dear leader, following none but him.

They say they will make their children deeply understand the kindness of the dear leader and the advantages of our man-centred socialist system and clearly know of the aggressive acts of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique and the past crimes of the Japanese militarists against the Korean people, so that their children may remain loyal and filial to our socialist system.

They say they will positively contribute to strengthening friendship and solidarity with the Japanese people.

The long life in good health of the dear leader is our greatest desire, the Japanese women say, wishing him good health and long life.

Cho Il-min Interviewed on Concrete Wall

SK1712020892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 16 (KCNA)—Cho Il-min, chief of the Pyongyang mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon), was interviewed by a KCNA reporter on December 15 after seeing together with members of the mission, Panmunjom and the concrete wall built in the areas south of the Military Demarcation Line.

The concrete wall which I have seen is, in every respect, a clear evidence fully exposing the anti-reunification, anti-national crimes of the successive ruling quarters of South Korea, Cho Il-min said, and went on:

The wall extending 240 kilometres which was built by the group of traitors to the nation for several years from 1977 with hundreds of thousands of tons of steel and cement, a large amount of money and the mobilization of hundreds of thousands of puppet army soldiers still remains a symbol of division and confrontation.

The concrete wall for freezing national division must be pulled down, he urged, and stressed:

The traitors and separatists, raising outcries over the non-existent "threat from the North", disguise it as a "strategic defence wall" and "tank traps". But it fully reveals their anti-reunification, anti-national color. Our people must reunify the country at an early date and destroy the cursed wall bisecting the nation.

While visiting Panmunjom, I witnessed at first hand the quite different systems and realities of the North and the South. I have keenly felt once again the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il for the people and the might of socialism of the North where all the people are united in one mind behind the party and the leader.

The cursed wall barring meeting and reunion of the separated flesh and blood must no longer remain, he said, and demanded: The South Korean authorities must immediately stop their nuclear racket and military manoeuvres and honestly implement the North-South agreement.

Daily: 'Imperialists' Cannot 'Stifle Socialism'

SK1812122692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 18 Dec 92

["Virulent Anti-Socialist Moves of Imperialists and Reactionaries"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—The vicious anti-socialist moves of the imperialists and the reactionaries come under fire in NODONG SINMUN today.

No matter how hard they may try, they cannot stifle socialism, declares the by-lined article, saying:

Since the cold war ended and the balance of strength collapsed in the international arena, the modern imperialists have become all the more arrogant and are intensifying the anti-socialist moves in every way.

They are directing the sharp edge of their attack to the socialist countries steadfastly defending the revolutionary principles.

The modern imperialists who have imposed economic blockade on Cuba for 30 odd years to stifle its revolution are now tightening it still further, while threatening the country militarily.

The United States, under unreasonable pretexts, is seeking war adventures against our Republic that is invariably defending the banner of socialism. They are trying to keep their troops in South Korea and escalating military provocations and nuclear war moves against the DPRK with a hue and cry over the non-existent "threat from the North" and "nuclear threat".

The imperialists, in a bid to prevent the revival of socialism in the countries where socialism has suffered setbacks, have employed every conceivable means such as intensified economic pressure and ideological and cultural infiltration.

The malignant anti-socialist moves of the imperialists and the reactionaries find expression also in that they are barring the peoples of those countries who have embarked on the building of a new society, after freeing themselves from national oppression and exploitation, from taking the road of socialism.

The imperialists are stooping to such means as the spread of fear and worship of America, bourgeois ideologies and corrupt ways of life among them to benumb their anti-imperialist consciousness of independence. They are also plotting to destroy the political system of those countries under the cloak of "democracy".

Noting that the imperialists' bluff reveals their weakness, the article says the aspiration of the world progressive people toward socialism is ever growing.

This is clearly proved by the fact that more than 150 revolutionary parties have signed the Pyongyang declaration which confirms the truth and justness of the socialist cause and the inevitability of its final victory and world revolutionary people are fully sympathizing with it.

Kim Yong-nam Greets Sierra Leonean Counterpart

SK1712004992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 16 (KCNA)—Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Mohamed Lamin Kamara upon his appointment as secretary of state for foreign affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations existing between the two countries would continue to develop favorably, the message wished him success in his responsible work.

Cooperation Plan Signed With Romania

SK1712005192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 16 (KCNA)—A working plan on scientific cooperation for 1992-1995 was signed here today between the Academy of Sciences of the DPRK and the Academy of Sciences of Romania.

The plan was signed by president of the Academy of Sciences Kim Kyong-pong and Romanian ambassador to Korea Aureliu Ioan Lazar.

South Korea

Kim Yong-sam on Chong Chu-yong's 'Remarks'

SK1212064792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Kim Yong-sam, presidential candidate of the majority Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), said yesterday that he is not interested in whatever remarks Chong Chu-yong of the United People's Party (UPP) may make in a massive rally in Yoido today.

Chong Chu-yong, presidential candidate of the UPP, vowed that he will make a "bombshell" statement in the rally to deal a crippling blow to the DLP candidate who he termed as a mastermind of the ongoing government suppression of the UPP and Hyundai Business Group." Chong is founder of Hyundai Group being investigated by police for diverting corporate funds to the UPP.

Asked how he felt over the report of Chong's planned revelation of his alleged collusion with business tycoons in a press conference at the DLP headquarters yesterday, Kim said, "I am not interested in whatever allegations he makes, because people will know the truth and who is the real culprit of the ongoing money-dominated campaigns nationwide."

Kim said, "Throughout my 40-year political career, I have lived a life with dignity. I have nothing to conceal as far as money is concerned, as you know well."

As for the criticism that he is avoiding debates with other presidential candidates, Kim said, "It is sheer nonsense to say that I am avoiding TV debates. I am ready to hold a debate with any candidate.

"I have already ordered my party to materialize the TV debates in accordance with pertinent election regulations," Kim said confidently.

Asked to confirm a report that Kim Tae-chung recently proposed him to hold a joint conference aimed at uprooting the deep-seated regionalism between Kyongsang and Cholla people, Kim said, "I have not received the proposal yet. If anything, I think there is no need to hold a joint conference regarding the matter because those who fanned the 'ruinous' regional rivalry are not the two Kims, but those having power in the past."

He expressed profound displeasure about the "negative" campaigns conducted by other parties such as character accusations. "People will not condone such dirty tricks," Kim said.

Kim apologized for the alleged distribution of watches bearing his name, pledging to prevent the recurrence of such malpractices at the low echelon of the party apparatus.

"I have no intention to become president through such unjust means as money offensive and mobilization of government officials," Kim said.

Kim, however, advocated the controversial Democratic Alpine Club, saying, "They are courageous people who fought with the past military dictatorship. Their campaigning for me is natural as they are all members of the DLP."

Kim Yong-sam Denounces Election Violations

SK1612114292 Seoul YONHAP in English 1119 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Pohang, Dec. 16 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, presidential candidate of the Democratic Liberal Party, said here Wednesday the neutral cabinet should be held responsible for the recent controversial secret meeting of key Pusan officials.

"The cabinet should thoroughly shed light on the incident and punish rigidly any persons involved regardless of their position," Kim said.

While meeting with the press at the Pohang airport, the majority party candidate said, "Something unimaginable occurred in Pusan. No person of my party was involved in it, and the biggest victim of the incident was none but myself."

Noting that he himself was the person who called for the creation of a neutral cabinet, Kim said "I who has suffered

from election illegalities more acutely than any other people in the past have not even dreamed of getting elected in an unlawful manner."

He said there still exist some public officials who try to stage election in an illegal manner. "These people should know that people won't tolerate it any more," Kim said.

Meanwhile, Pak Hui-tae, spokesman of the Democratic Liberal Party, Wednesday denounced the United People's Party for secretly tape-recording the talks made during the secret Pusan meeting.

"The incident was nasty enough to set off public shock and anger. But, as the end does not justify whatever means employed, there is a problem as the tape-recording was an illegal eavesdropping infringing upon private life," Pak said.

The spokesman said his party fears if the act of illegal eavesdropping would have an extensive spillover effect on the society.

"In this respect, the United People's Party should have a serious self-reflection and guilty-conscience," Pak said.

Kim Yong-sam Campaigns for 'Gradual Change'

SK1712060192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Kim Yong-sam, presidential candidate of the majority Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), yesterday urged government officials to stay strictly neutral in the ongoing presidential contest, reminding spectators in stumping rallies in Ulsan and Kyongju of the fact that the inauguration of the neutral cabinet was made possible by his suggestion.

In the rally in Ulsan, stronghold of the Hyundai Group, Kim said, "I have no desire to become president through illegal means." His remarks were apparently made in consideration of the recent controversy touched off by the United People's Party's revelation of a government officials' secret meeting in Pusan aimed to help him win the election.

"I apologize to the people that such a meeting was held, even though it was a private event of former and incumbent officials who have no connection with our party," Kim said.

Kim urged the government to sternly punish all of those involved regardless of how high their positions are.

The DLP candidate put forth several election promises designed to revive ailing small industries. "If elected, even before my inauguration, I will recommend to President No the government lower interest rates," he said.

Kim promised to upgrade Ulsan to a special city and build a university in the industrial city.

Kim claimed that he is the only "qualified" candidate to enforce reform amid stability.

"The reform I espouse is a gradual change of wrong institutions and practices amid stability, not a revolutionary change or downright overthrow of our society," Kim said.

Chong Criticizes DLP for Relying on Government

SK1712061592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Dec 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Pak Sung-yong]

[Text] Chongju - Presidential candidate Chong Chu-yong of the United People's Party bombarded Kim Yong-sam of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] yesterday with a charge that he is relying on government influence for election.

In a campaign rally in Chongju, Chong said the clandestine meeting of police, intelligence and other officials including mayor of Pusan is an indisputable evidence that Kim is holding on to the government's coattail to get elected.

He said Kim helped ferment the malignant regionalism, citing the taped remarks of former justice minister Kim Ki-chun that it is necessary to incite regionalism to get Kim elected.

The meeting was arranged by former justice minister Kim. And the dialogue was bugged and taped.

Chong denounced the chief intelligence officer, whose main duty is to safeguard national security, for urging the mayor to buy support of local dailies as part of a move to help Kim elected.

Chong lamented that they are making the nation amenable to police and intelligence agencies.

Then he called upon the young voter to show their courage to sweep away corrupt people form the administration and political circle through election this time.

Maintaining that high-level officials of the DLP and the Democratic Party led by Kim Tae-chung were involved in the recent North Korean spy ring, he asked for immediate release of the outcome of the investigation.

The investigation authorities should not delay making public investigation results in order to help DLP candidate.

During the same rally, he promised to develop the city in the central part of the nation as the center of aero industry.

In the morning, he campaigned in Wonju, Tanyang, promising the farming populace to reduce their debts incurred from farming and build factories for processing farm produce.

After the Chongju rally, Chong stumped in Taejon in his desperate efforts to turn the voters to his side in the Chungchong Province regarded as still undecided to his side.

Presidential Candidates Deliver Speeches

SK1712235592

[Editorial Report] ROK television stations on 16 and 17 December carry speeches by presidential candidates.

Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean at 0940 GMT on 16 December carries the third 20-minute campaign speech by presidential candidate Pak Chan-chong of the New Political Reform Party.

Pak Chan-chong says that he will form his government based on integrity if he is elected president. He deplores the size of the ROK's underground economy. He pledges that he will bring the underground economy into the open so that it can contribute to the state economy. He opposes the parliamentary government system proposed by some presidential candidates because the ROK National Assembly, which is controlled by many corrupt and unprincipled lawmakers, can not elect the right president or prime minister.

Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean at 1300 GMT on 16 December carries the fourth 20-minute speech by presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP].

Kim Yong-sam promises that if he is elected president, he will carry out three major reforms: first, political reform for political parties, National Assembly operation, and various election practices; second, administrative reform for government organizations, public officials' salaries, optimum number of public officials, administration based on action, and personnel management; and third, economic reform for medium and small industries, autonomous operation of financial institutions, bank interest rate, commodity prices, government spending, taxation administration, real-name financial transaction system, promotion of scientific and technological development, and measures for agricultural and fishing communities. He stresses that, in order for him to successfully carry out the major reforms, the country urgently needs to be stabilized politically and socially.

Seoul MBC Television Network in Korean at 1250 GMT on 17 December carries the fifth 20-minute speech by presidential candidate Chong Chu-yong of the United People's Party.

Chong Chu-yong opens his speech by accusing the government of backing a plot to let Kim Yong-sam win the presidential election, citing the alleged secret meeting of heads of local governments and agencies. He says that the ROK now stands at the crossroads of opening the era of the Pacific Ocean and presents a blue print for the 21st century—creation of the country where all the people can lead equally abundant lives. In order to make this come true, he pledges the following: first, overcoming the current economic crisis through eradication of irregularities and corruption, solution of the trade deficit, aggressive assistance for medium and small industries, public officials' salary level, and solution of housing, traffic and pollutions problems; second, regaining the impaired honor of victims of the Kwangju uprising in 1980; third, the solution of regional antagonism; and fourth, reunification.

Seoul MBC Television Network in Korean at 1310 GMT on 17 December carries the fifth 20-minute speech by the DLP presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam.

Kim Yong-sam deplores the secret meeting of the heads of local government and agencies in Pusan. He brands it as a political plot designed to make him lose the presidential election and says that he urged the neutral cabinet to severely punish the relevant officials. He says that his ultimate goal is to create "New Korea"—a new country of the 21st century. He says that the country is enervated politically and economically and urgently needs a bold reform. He says that only the DLP, which has a majority of seats in the National Assembly, can successfully carry out the reform. He is also proud that the DLP has the experience and able manpower which can carry out such a reform. Stressing political and social stabilization for the successful reform, he repeats his pledges for the reforms which he mentioned in the 16 December KBS-1 speech. He adds that he has a great interest in youth—raising youth to be the politicians and businessmen of a new generation.

Seoul MBC Television Network in Korean at 1330 GMT on 17 December carries the fifth 20-minute speech by presidential candidate Kim Tae-chung.

Kim Tae-chung says that he had only one campaign rally in Cholla Provinces and canceled another planned one in Yoido in order to avoid fueling regional antagonism. He says that the neutral government has done its best within its power to remain neutral in the presidential election. He regards the Pusan case as an intervention in the election by some high-ranking officials. He says that genuine political and social stabilization comes only when true democracy is realized and the people have true confidence in the government. He presents the following pledges: first, he will give equal opportunities for government service to all men of abilities so that he can solve the regional antagonism problem; second, for the security in Northeast Asia, he will maintain a close security cooperation with the United States by retaining U.S. troops in the ROK; third, he will pursue the reunification of Korea on gradual basis, while he will actively promote the reunion of separated families between the North and the South; fourth, he will pursue a genuine free economic policy—free market-oriented economy; fifth, he will hold local government elections sometime in the first half of next year.

YONHAP Notes Candidates' Activities 17 Dec

SK1712113392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0728 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam said Thursday the secret meeting of Pusan government officials was part of "a political scheme" aimed at defeating him in Friday's presidential election.

A former justice minister, the mayor of Pusan and regional intelligence and police officials held the breakfast meeting

last Friday to discuss ways to help Kim Yong-sam, presidential candidate of the majority Democratic Liberal Party.

The meeting was taped and exposed by Chong Chu-yong's United People's Party at a press conference on Tuesday. It became one of the hottest issues in the campaign that ended Thursday.

Kim Yong-sam, claiming he was also the victim of the meeting, blamed the government for failing to enforce its duty to prevent government officials from involving themselves in campaigns and to keep its avowed neutrality.

"This is part of a scheme to defeat me in the election," an angry Kim told a press conference. "But before long, those responsible for perpetrating this political scheme against me shall be brought to light."

Kim flatly denied a report that one of his aides has visited North Korea. "I can tell you clearly and unequivocally that no member of the Democratic Liberal Party has ever visited North Korea," he said.

"One of the presidential candidates, on the other hand, has visited North Korea and met with (North Korean president) Kim Il-song and helped to propagate the false idea that North Koreans are living well," Kim said, obviously referring to Chong Chu-yong.

Following his press conference, Kim visited the national cemetery and taped his last campaign speech for broadcast on television Thursday night. He then visited the stock market and the Seoul Red Cross hospital to meet with disabled veterans of the Vietnam war.

—Projecting the so-called "new DJ image" of a soft and mellowed leader, Kim Tae-chung held a press conference Thursday morning but expressed his firm conviction that he would win the presidential election on Friday.

He then immediately left for last minute stumping in Inchon and Yongsang in Seoul before mingling with young voters in Myongdong and Chongro, in the heart of Seoul.

The Democratic Party's presidential candidate went to Munhwa Broadcasting Co. (MBC) in the afternoon to tape a campaign speech to be aired Thursday night.

At his press conference, Kim Tae-chung said the secret meeting in Pusan was an "insult" to the citizens of that port city, who intend to carry out their civic duty to hold a fair and clean election, overcoming regionalism.

He urged Kim Yong-sam and the Democratic Liberal Party to stop blaming others or trying to escape their responsibility for the incident. They should frankly apologize to the nation, he said.

Asked about his chances of winning the election, Kim Tae-chung said that barring any more untoward happening of official interference or massive vote-buying, there is no possibility of reversal in his lead.

Kim Tae-chung said he based his conviction on the facts that the most people want reform and change, the traditional forces that had been opposing him have changed their attitude and are now supporting him, and that the Democratic Liberal Party made many mistakes during the campaign, completely losing the confidence of the people.

—Chong Chu-yong of the United People's Party said he was convinced that he would emerge victorious in Friday's election.

The tycoon-turned-presidential candidate thanked the people, who he said voiced their "enthusiasm for an economic president" and supported his campaign.

Commenting on the question of Pak Tae-chun, a former chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party, Chong said he was able to reconfirm Pak's intention to join his party through a third party.

But Pak could not come home because of "outside pressure," Chong said. "Maybe he could return today and join our party later in the day."

Chong also made an incredible claim that the Bank of Korea had printed 300 billion won to support Kim Yong-sam's campaign. The central bank had printed another 300 billion won to finance the Democratic Liberal Party candidates for the National Assembly in the March 24 general elections, Chong said.

Spending of Three Main Parties Reported

SK1712044292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0114 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—The three main parties have spent 20.3 billion won (25.89 million U.S. dollars) on advertisements for Friday's election.

The United People's Party [UPP] topped the list with 8.7 billion won, followed by the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] with 7.5 billion won and the Democratic Party with 4.1 billion won.

Diamond Ad Co., a subsidiary of the Hyundai business group, said Thursday that the UPP had spent 6.5 billion won as of Nov. 20, when the election date was announced and campaigning officially began, and 2.2 billion won after the announcement.

The DLP spent 5.3 billion won before and 2.2 billion won after the announcement, and the DP spent 2 billion won before and 2.1 billion won after.

Under the presidential election law, each candidate is allowed four ads in a newspaper, five on radio and five on television.

A television commercial costs 40 million to 50 million won to make, and 14 million to 20 million won for each airing.

The DLP has spent 290 million won on four commercials, the DP 240 million won and the UPP 120 million won.

Paper Notes Difficulty in Assessing Candidates

SK1712055292 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Voters' Wise Judgment"]

[Text] Contending parties are mounting last-minute campaigns to glean as many votes as possible with new pledges to the electorate, biting allegations against rival camps and counter-offensives. The government and election management authorities are doing their utmost to curb illegal and corrupt campaigning, but they seem to have too limited capabilities, not to mention enthusiasm, to bring all the wrong practices under control.

Now the voters have the key to holding a presidential election that can produce a truly qualified leader of the Republic. Some 25 million people are expected to go to the polls across the country tomorrow to exercise their sovereign rights.

But, at this moment, we are not reassured that the nation's voters were able to make correct assessments of the candidates because what prevailed during the 28-day official campaign period were extremely disturbing methods of electioneering, characterized by mutual slandering, vote-buying and muckraking maneuvers.

Because of these mutually scathing campaigns, nearly a quarter of the total voters are said to be still undecided and hence are feared to abstain from casting their ballots or make rather rash decisions at the last minute. The people's antipathy toward politics as a whole could also have been deepened as they witnessed the less than productive electioneering.

Many opinion surveys indicate voters' growing disenchantment with political parties, either pro-government or in the opposition, which have been presenting unreliable and infeasible election pledges. More than anything else, the contestants this time failed to offer major political themes for the electorate to choose from.

Democracy versus authoritarian or military rule, civil liberties versus political oppression were long-standing catchphrases from the period of Syngman Rhee's 1st Republic until the 1987 election at the end of Chon Tu-hwan's 5th Republic. But gone are such extreme confrontational issues in the current contest of all civilian candidates.

Furthermore, there are basically few differences in the platforms and planks among the major parties which all pursue free democracy and a market-oriented economy. If there is any points of distinction, they are rather matters of rhetoric and tactical approaches.

Kim Yong-sam of the majority Democratic Liberal Party advocates "reform amidst stability," Kim Tae-chung of the Democratic Party calls for "grand national reconciliation," and Chong Chu-yong of the United People's Party insists on "economic reconstruction" before anything else. Yet, especially in the final stage, they all were more eager to highlight the shortcomings of the other camps than publicizing own policies.

The festering disputes over corruptive electioneering, especially between the DLP and the UPP, was a major election issue as a matter of fact. Yet mutual recriminations among the parties have obscured the point of argument, leading the voters to the conclusion that none of them is clean.

Then there was the ideological debate between the two Kims, a hackneyed issue which was brought to the fore with the DP's alliance with a federation of radical dissidents groups. Kim Tae-chung's opponents as well as general observers are genuinely confused about his possible gains and losses from this gambit.

The disclosure of a secret meeting of senior government officials in the second largest city of Pusan to discuss how to help Kim Yong-sam no doubt seriously hurt the credibility of the government regarding its professed stand of neutrality and dealt a blow to the majority party candidate whose leading margin was said to be dwindling in the three-way contest.

With the prompt action of sacking the Pusan mayor and some other participants of the embarrassing meeting, President No and the cabinet of Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong tried to prove their sincerity. But Kim Yong-sam's camp, which called for a thorough investigation of the incident, is certainly finding too little time is left to control the damage.

Now voters have just 24 hours to look back on all they had seen and heard in the 1992 presidential campaign and make a final, wise decision with a sense of responsibility.

Candidates End Campaigning in Seoul Vicinity

SK1712054992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0315 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—The presidential candidates wound up a month of intense official campaigning Thursday and prepared to receive the judgement of the people in Friday's election.

Despite vituperative charges and counter-charges of vote-buying and other illegal electioneering during the campaigns, the election is expected to be the most peaceful and democratic ever to be held in this country.

The polls are to open at 7 AM Friday until 6 PM at 15,346 stations.

The Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) said it expects a turnout of 80 percent. As soon as ballot boxes are gathered, vote counting will start from around 8 PM at 308 ballot counting stations.

The outcome is expected to be known early Saturday, CEMC officials said.

Most of the seven candidates, who had been crisscrossing the nation for the past several months in pursuit of elusive votes, brought the finale of their campaigns to Seoul, where they held separate press conferences, summing up their hopes and goals for the last time.

Kim Yong-sam of the Democratic Liberal Party claimed that the momentum was moving in his favor.

"Talking to voters across the country, I could reaffirm that the people want reforms amid political and economic stability," Kim said.

To become president of this country, he said, he gave up the vested right as the candidate of the ruling party and a 40-odd-year career as a member of the National Assembly. As a result, Kim said, he had contributed to the formation of the neutral government, which on the whole had fulfilled its job of overseeing the campaign impartially.

Kim Yong-sam expressed regret that there were smear campaigns, slanderous attacks, vote-buying and other corrupt campaign practices. There were confrontation and hard feelings among candidates, he said, but when it is over, all candidates as well as voters should come together to work for the country.

Kim Tae-chung of the Democratic Party said, "I leave all my hopes, plans and dreams in the hands of the people now."

An overwhelming majority of the people want change, a change from 32 years of same regimes and three years of the Democratic Liberal Party as they are firmly convinced that they could not leave the fate of this country in the hands of these same people, he said.

Kim Tae-chung reaffirmed his pledge that he would realize grand reconciliation and harmony, working with P.esident No Tae-u to form a pan-national cabinet and recruiting all able bodies from all parties and all walks of life.

He said he would stabilize the country within one year of his administration based on the reconciliation and carry out reforms and new politics that the people ardently desire.

Taking Friday's election as a turning point, Kim Tae-chung said he would lay the ground for unification of the country and the foundation for a greater Korea for the 21st century.

These important tasks, Kim declared, the nation could not leave to people who changed their principles and faith easily, and who tried to whip up regionalism and take advantage of it for themselves.

Chong Chu-yong of the United People's Party said he believed that he would score an overwhelming victory.

The tycoon-turned-presidential candidate said he based his belief on the apparent and unfailing support of ordinary people who "wish the birth of an economic president."

At his last press conference, Chong, who was viewed by many as a spoiler, accused Kim Yong-sam and the Democratic Liberal Party of resorting to official interference in campaigns and mudslinging and said: "I urge them to stop their illegal electioneering, for it is not too late."

Pak Chan-chong of the New Political Reform Party pushed his last minute campaign in Pupyong in Inchon and Puchon, on the western outskirts of Seoul, urging voters to chase "the two Kims and one Chong" out of politics.

"Tomorrow is the time" for voters to show that political establishments and huge funds could no longer fool them," he said.

UPP 'Bugging Operation' Planned Well in Advance

SK1712061492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] The United People's Party [UPP] has reportedly installed an up-to-date bugging device on the eve of the Dec. 11 meeting at a Pusan restaurant involving former Justice Minister Kim Ki-chun and eight high-ranking officials and businessmen in the city.

UPP sources yesterday said that the party began the "bugging operation" on the evening of Dec. 10 after a tip-off from a man whom he described as a government official.

The whistle blower is a "rival" of one of the nine people who attended the breakfast meeting, according to the sources.

In regard to the breakfast meeting, Kim Yong-hwan, who was sacked as the mayor of the city in the wake of the controversial session, said that the former justice minister called him on the morning of Dec. 10 to propose the meeting.

"Then I called Pusan Chief Prosecutor Chong Kyong-sik about the breakfast meeting," Kim told a news conference hours before his dismissal was announced Tuesday.

Kim said his and Chong's secretaries called the other participants for the meeting.

UPP officials said the whistle blower first informed the party that the meeting was set to take place on the evening of Dec. 10. "So we put a bugging device in a second-floor room of the restaurant in the afternoon," said a party official.

But the meeting was rescheduled for the next morning and party officials again visited the restaurant, disguising themselves as customers, and reexamined the eavesdropping equipment, the party official added.

One official, who also asked that his name not be used, said the bugging device, which uses radio frequencies, is foreign-made and rarely available in Korea.

He said a group of "experts" were called in to record the meeting's conversations. "We first thought of seeking cooperation from the restaurant employees, but gave up the idea for fear that they might report the plan to the restaurant owner."

They removed the recorded tape from the room following the breakfast meeting which lasted about two hours.

UPP officials also said they took pictures of the nine individuals as they emerged from the meeting from a window of an apartment which was about 20 meters from the restaurant. The apartment owner has nothing to do with the party, they said. The pictures were released to the press.

The Chowon restaurant, which specializes in globefish dishes, is not rated as a top restaurant in Pusan but attracts the city's prominent figures for its well-known globefish cuisine.

A Chowon restaurant employee said the mayor's office made the reservation for the breakfast meeting.

Prosecution Tries To Unravel Pusan 'Mystery'

SK1712050192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0123 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Pusan, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—The prosecution tried Thursday to unravel the mystery of how a "secret" conversation among senior city officials in support of Kim Yong-sam, presidential candidate of the Democratic Liberal Party, was taped.

The get-together, initiated by a former justice minister, has become a hot campaign issue since it was exposed by the United People's Party on Tuesday. The mayor of Pusan was replaced and other government officials were either fired or relieved of their duties.

The secret meeting of eight officials, including Kim Ki-chun, the former justice minister, took place on the morning of Dec. 11 at a restaurant specializing in globe fish in Southern Pusan.

According to restaurant owner Kim Tong-sik, 41, a man in his 40s who identified himself as Kim, an executive of Daeil Trading Co., came to the restaurant with seven others and had a three-hour dinner the night before the meeting in the same room used by the officials.

They used a sound-proofed underground room that is not part of the restaurant but living quarters for the owner's brother and his wife. It was, however, occasionally used for service when all other rooms were occupied.

The room was also frequently used by chiefs of major local government agencies, according to the owner.

The Kim of the trading company and his men came back the day after the "secret meeting" and insisted on eating in the same underground room, although other rooms were available, the authorities quoted Kim Tong-sik as saying.

The authorities said they would like to talk to the mysterious Kim and his men.

Neutral Cabinet Loses Credibility After Scandal

SK1712062592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] The breakfast meeting of the chiefs of public organizations in Pusan has dealt a hard blow to the determination of the neutral cabinet headed by Prime Minister Hyon Sun-chong for a fair election.

Minority political parties and most of the public have been suspicious of the neutral claim made by the Hyon cabinet from the outset of the inauguration, as public servants have intervened in previous elections in favor of ruling party candidates.

Although the Pusan case is not a case of systematic intervention, high public officials are inclined to support the majority Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], which was the ruling party before President No Tae-u resigned from party membership.

Prime Minister Hyon made it clear with every chance that public officials would and should be neutral for an unprecedented fair election. He also repeatedly instructed government officials not the express opinions that may affect elections even in private meetings such as alumni gatherings.

Hyon again instructed his staff members yesterday to be cautious about their talks and actions considering the Pusan scandal which he said was a private meeting of highranking officials in Pusan.

It is the general opinion that the neutrality was severely marred by the breakfast meeting.

The scandal broke out just a few days after Home Minister Paek Kwang-hyon stated in a meeting of governors and mayors that they should be careful not to be misunderstood concerning the election.

The chief of the National Police Headquarters called on the police to stay neutral, and the new prosecutor general warned that prosecutors should execute laws impartially.

The incident is shocking as chiefs of public bodies in Pusan gathered for breakfast to help the DLP candidate although the meeting was hosted by a former justice minister, proving that public officials have been eager to open their ears to the core of power as in the past.

More worrisome is the perception of some officials that the intervention of the public bodies will affect the election.

According to the recording of the gathering, an attendant said, "I feel disappointed that we cannot do as we want due to the neutrality of the current cabinet."

When scrutinizing the words of the recording, the public servants did not speak a single word worthy of high-ranking officials. No words of concern for the nation and people were uttered.

Kim Tae-chung Heaps Criticism on Kim Yong-sam

SK1712061992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Kim Tae-chung, presidential candidate of the Democratic Party [DP], heaped criticism against the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] counterpart Kim Yong-sam as being responsible for the engagement of government officials in the election as revealed by the recent divulgence of a secret meeting of Pusan district administration heads.

In rallies at Seoul and Kyonggi-do province, Kim said, "It became clear who has ignited the chronic regional confrontation for the purpose of exploiting it for the election."

"Although Kim has claimed that he would not seek the presidency through improper means, his words proved to

be a lie by trying to win the election through aggravating regionalism and mobilizing government officials," he said.

He also condemned the DLP's Kim for trying to make him out to be a leftist politician by taking issue with the DP's alliance with the dissident group despite he has once been connected with them.

He pledged he would, if elected, spare no efforts to make the country the "second Germany" on the basis of political stability and economic prosperity, thus bringing about true the national unification within this century.

For the political stability, he renewed his campaign promise of setting up the first two years of his tenure as political cease-fire both among the politicians and among the labor and management to absorb them in manufacturing activities.

For this, he said, "I would seek reconciliation of all the people irrespective of their background in the past. I will, if necessary, appoint government officials form former and present governments as cabinet members."

He also pledged to give first emphasis on revitalizing the small and medium-size industries to make them the base of national economic development.

He said [as published]

DLP 'Busy' Minimizing Effect of Pusan Scandal

SK1712063992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] The majority Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) is busy trying to minimize the ripple effect of the controversial meeting of high-ranking government officials in Pusan last Friday, arguing that Kim Ki-chun, for former justice minister who arranged the secret meeting to discuss ways to help DLP presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam with the coming election, is neither a party member nor a member of the DLP election campaign.

The opposition Democratic Party (DP) and the United People's Party (UPP) are all out to take advantage of the incident, assailing the DLP and raising doubts over the "neutrality" of the Hyon Sung-chong Cabinet and President No Tae-u.

The DP is apparently enjoying the flare-up and the subsequent development of the controversy, while the UPP, which revealed the contents of the government officials' meeting it had recorded on the sly, is busy sizing up the gains from the dispute. Some UPP officials said that the part gaining windfall from the controversy is the DP, not the UPP.

The majority party, which has received a crippling blow in the last phase of the neck-and-neck presidential contest, insisted that it has nothing to do with the meeting, denouncing the rival parties for falsely accusing the DLP to convince people that it was behind the meeting.

To bring the situation quickly under control, DLP presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam Tuesday urged the government to thoroughly investigate the Pusan meeting and punish those involved.

DLP Secretary General Kim Yong-ku told reporters yesterday that his boss was quite angry when he was briefed of the incident Tuesday and ordered him to convey the party's position to the government.

He criticized the rival parties for taking advantage of the case for political gains. "It's too much for them to exploit the case now that the government sacked the officials involved and the prosecution launched a probe."

DLP vice spokesman Yi Won-chong said that Kim Ki-chun has arranged the meeting as a mere "civilian" and that he had never belonged to the DLP as was claimed by the DP. Kim hosted a breakfast meeting with the Pusan mayor and other top officials at a globefish restaurant in the southern port city on Dec. 11 to discuss ways to support Kim Yong-sam, his high school senior.

Commenting on the DP's claim that Kim was a member of the DLP election management committee, Yi said, "The former justice minister never entered the DLP nor was a member of our election management committee. I feel angry at the hopeless attempt of the DP to disguise its absurd argument as fact."

The DP convened a meeting of campaign managers Tuesday night to discuss the party's countersteps over the Pusan Government officials' meeting.

DP officials decided to print 400,000 copies of the contents of the clandestine meeting for distribution in the stumping rallies of Kim Tae-chung, the party's presidential candidate.

Yi Kim-taek, executive chairman of the largest opposition party [DP], argued in a special statement yesterday that Kim Yong-sam must have known in advance that Kim Ki-chun was to host the breakfast meeting.

"Kim said that he had no knowledge about the meeting. It is like trying to blind the sun with his hand," Yi said.

Commenting on the controversial Pusan meeting, DP spokesman Hong Sa-tok said, "Now Kim Yong-sam is being punished for his McCarthyist attempt to accuse our party candidate Kim Tae-chung of harboring a suspicious ideology."

The UPP is intensifying its offensive against the DLP and the government, questioning the avowed neutrality of the incumbent cabinet.

UPP chief campaign manager Kim Tong-kil claimed that the government officials' meeting in Pusan is clear proof that President No Tae-u's declaration to stay neutral in the presidential election was a sheer lie.

"Now people have come to know who is the real culprit of the illegal electioneering attempt" Kim said. "We will hold President No and Premier Hyon accountable for the government involved campaign."

Kim said. "As you see, the government is dragging its feet in arresting Kim Ki-chun and officials who attended the secret meeting."

Yang Sun-chik, a UPP co-chairman, claimed that there must have been other clandestine meetings of government officials similar to that in Pusan aimed at helping Kim Yong-sam, candidate of the former government party.

"If the government keeps on helping Kim in secret, we will not accept the election outcome and the current government will face enormous resistance from people," Yang said.

DLP Claims Pak Tae-chun Supports Party

SK1712055092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0524 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] spokesman Pak Hui-tae revealed a letter Thursday from Rep. Pak Tae-chun showing his support for DLP presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam, sneering at the United People's Party's [UPP] claim that Pak intended to join the UPP.

The UPP has insisted that the DLP and government were barring Pak from returning to Seoul because they feared his joining it.

Pak, honorary chairman of Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (Posco), is in Hong Kong and Posco officials say he is not expected back as scheduled on Thursday.

They say it is possible he will return in time to vote on Friday, but they are not sure and have no comment on the letter.

"Rep. Pak Tae-chun has repeatedly shown support for the DLP and reiterated his firm decision not to join any other parties," the DLP spokesman said, presenting the letter addressed to Kim Yong-sam.

"How difficult it must be for you in the tail end of the election campaign," Pak quoted the letter as saying. "I hope you will fight well till the last moment and I am sure you will win."

The spokesman said: "In spite of the fact that Rep. Pak maintains an unchanged friendship for Kim Yong-sam, the UPP has shown shocking maneuvering by signing up someone who is currently abroad to its party."

On hearing the announcement on Pak's letter wishing Kim victory in Friday's election, UPP spokesman Pyon Chong-il said it was unbelievable considering Rep. Pak's "political belief and character."

"Because Rep. Pak is not free to say his mind, the letter must be a trick of the DLP considering Pak's political track record," Pyon said.

DLP Representative Joins UPP Ranks on 17 Dec

SK1712054792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0249 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—Rep. Pak Ku-il of the Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] national constituency has left the DLP campaign on the eve of the election and joined the United People's Party [UPP].

Pak, a retired marine corps commandant, said Thursday he was leaving the DLP in the judgement that the political future of the nation rested not with the two Kims but with Chong Chu-yong's "courage and creative will."

His joining brought the number of UPP seats in the National Assembly to 38.

No: Government Should Help Keep Order at Polls

SK1712113492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0745 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Thursday that the government should cooperate closely with the Central Election Management Committee to prevent accidents or illegalities in voting and ballot counting and in keeping order at polling places.

No, while being briefed by Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong on state affairs, said that as regards the top officials' secret meeting in Pusan, it was regrettable that they had neglected their duties and caused a social problem with an informal meeting and that the incident should not weaken the government's efforts to prevent illegal electioneering.

The current government's duty is not only to fairly manage the presidential election but to achieve national reconciliation soon afterward and stabilize living standards, he said.

Candidates Assign Staff to Election Process

SK1812023492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0155 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—The candidates have assigned 146,926 staff to oversee the election at all 15,346 polling stations in the nation.

The most were mobilized by Kim Yong-sam of the Democratic Liberal Party (53,645), followed by Chong Chu-yong of the United People's Party (49,500), Kim Tae-chung of the Democratic Party (42,790), Independent Paek Ki-wan (458), and Pak Chan-chong of the New Political Reform Party (131).

Another 10,204 staff will witness the transportation of the ballot boxes to the 308 counting places after 6 P.M. and oversee the count, which starts at 8 P.M.

They are 2,452 from the DLP; 2,408 from the UPP; 2,324 from the DP; 1,681 from Paek Ki-wan; 1,158 from the New Political Reform Party; 148 from the Korea Justice Party; and 33 staff of Independent Kim Ok-son.

President Says '92 Election 'Fairer' Than Past

SK1812030992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0202 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u, accompanied by his wife, First Lady Kim Ok-suk, voted for his successor at a polling station in front of Chongwadae early Friday morning.

As the presidential couple entered, 30 voters and election management officials welcomed them, and No and Kim cast their ballots after chatting with other voters.

Asked his impression of the election for the first president without military career in 32 years, No said that the next five years would be a crucial time to determine the shape of the country as well as to realize reunification of the Korean peninsula.

"Though there have been some unpleasant incidents, the election is conducted in a fairer and more just manner than past elections," No said.

The election should be conducted without any serious incidents until the last minute so that it could live up to the expectations of the entire world, he said.

Asked for whom he voted, No said that he cast his ballot for a capable candidate who could carry out important national tasks in the future, adding that every candidate should submit the results humbly in accordance with the decision of the people.

Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong also voted near his home, casting his ballot together with his wife and third son.

Hyon described the controversial Pusan meeting, where the city's security and intelligence chiefs discussed ways to support Democratic Liberal Party candidate Kim Yong-sam with the mayor, as aberration and said the election was generally fairer than previous ones even though vote-buying and mudslinging was rampant during the campaign.

"The fine weather will help the nation choose a leader," Hyon said. "I expect the new leader to widen the road of democracy that was built by this government."

Two Leading Candidates Visit Demilitarized Zone

SK1812074892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0615 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Paju, Kyonggi Province, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung, the two leading candidates in Friday's presidential election, separately visited the unification observatory looking out to North Korea across the Demilitarized Zone after they had cast their votes in the morning.

Kim Yong-sam narrowly missed Kim Tae-chung as the Democratic Liberal Party candidate arrived in the observatory some 10 minutes after the Democratic Party candidate had left the area.

Kim Yong-sam showed an expression of slight concern when his guides told him that North Korea's cross-border propaganda broadcasts through loud speakers kept urging South Korean voters not to elect him if they wanted unification of the country.

Kim Yong-sam said what was most important was that the 10 million members of separated families should be able to visit each other across the DMZ and restore trust between the South and the North.

Earlier at the same place, Kim Tae-chung said that if he were elected president he would issue a strong warning to North Korea not to make any misjudgment of any kind in inter-Korean relations.

Kim Tae-chung said he would assist President No Tae-u 100 percent as a South Korean citizen until he leaves office on Feb. 25. He also praised the solidarity of all opposition forces and said that even the United People's Party had contributed.

He also gave credit to President No, who he said helped create a favorable atmosphere through his departure from the Democratic Liberal Party and by forming a neutral cabinet.

In the guest book, Kim Tae-chung wrote: "Let us accomplish unification of our country and usher in an era of the great Korean people."

Voter Turnout Tallied at Roughly 80.4 Percent

SK1812114492 Seoul YONHAP in English 1135 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—Countrywide voter turnout rate in the presidential election Friday was tentatively tallied at 80.4 percent by 6 P.M. deadline, the Central Election Management Committee said.

The committee said that as of 6 p.m. a total of 23,658,661 people of the total 29,422,658 eligible voters cast ballots to record a 80.4 percent turnout rate.

The rate represents a decline of 8.8 percentage points from the previous presidential election of 1987 when it was 89.2 percent.

The highest turnout, 87.4 percent, was showed in Kwangju while Taegu recorded the lowest with 76.2 percent.

The turnout rates in other regions were 78.7 percent in Seoul, 83.3 percent in Pusan, 76.7 percent in inchon, 78.8 percent in Taejon, 79.3 percent in Kyonggi Province, 81.4 percent in Kangwon Province, 80.5 percent in North Chungchong Province, and 78.7 percent in South Chungchong Province.

In North Cholla Province the rate was 83.4 percent, South Cholla Province 85.3 percent, North Kyongsang Province 80.2 percent, South Kyongsang Province 83.6 percent, and Cheju Province 79.1 percent.

DPRK To Modernize Najin-Songbong Trade Zone

SK1812064192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0558 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—North Korea is to prepare a legal mechanism for foreign investments in the Najin-Sonbong free economic and trade zone by the first half of next year and pursue construction of port, road, railway and airport facilities on a gradual basis, NAEWOE Press reported Friday.

NAEWOE, South Korea's official North Korea watchdog, quoted Yim Tae-tok, secretary to the North Korean External Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee, as saying in Japan last month that the zone would play a crucial role in facilitating economic cooperation and development in northeast Asia.

Yim said that North Korea would put primary emphasis on expanding its capacity to handle transit freight at the Najin and Chongjin ports from between 3 million and 8 million tons a year to 10 million tons each.

North Korea plans to lift the capacity of the ports to 50 million tons in the next stage and ultimately to 100 million tons.

Yim disclosed the scheme at a symposium in Kyoto on Nov. 27, NAEWOE said.

In addition, North Korea aims at improving rail and air systems, building an international airport in Sonbong to meet the growing needs, NAEWOE quoted Yim as telling the symposium.

Taiwan Resumes Issuing Visas to Koreans in Dec

SK1712044592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0054 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—Taiwan resumed issuing visas to South Koreans this month and demand for airline seats between Seoul and Taipei has recovered, but no Korean or Taiwanese airlines fly the route.

Korean and Taiwanese airlines closed the route on Aug. 24, upon severance of ties, and ridership plunged.

So all of the Taiwanese visiting Korea for skiing and Koreans going to Taiwan for warmer holidays are flying on United Airlines, Northwest, Delta Air Lines, Singapore Airlines and Cathay Pacific.

Cathay Pacific's Seoul-Taipei-Hong Kong route was struggling for three months, but this month the load factor (occupancy rate) is 91 percent, up 7 percentage points from November.

Singapore Airlines saw its load factor rise between 30 and 40 percentage points, with Koreans accounting for 70 percent of its passengers.

Northwest's load factor hit 85.8 percent in August, 61.2 percent in September, 61 percent in October, 53 percent in November, and is 80 percent this month.

PRC Proposes Joint Projects in Machinery Industry

SK1812022392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0120 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—China has proposed 631 machinery industry cooperation projects to South Korea so far this year, Korea Association of Machinery Industry (KOAMI) said on Friday.

KOAMI, in a report, said that the Chinese central government, the provincial governments of Liaoning and Anhwei and the city administrations of Harbin and Shenyang had proposed 631 projects.

The central government suggested 94 projects, including shaft bearings, corrugated cardboard, and cement bags, and the Liaoning provincial government proposed 80 such as diesel engines, medium and large buses and printing presses.

Anhwei provincial government suggested 49, including mining and motor plant, and Harbin city administration proposed cooperation in farm tractors and 25 other projects.

Shenyang city administration proposed 383 in nearly all fields from general machinery to computers.

KOAMI is to give information to member companies on investment in China based on data sent by the Chinese government and industries, and if a Korean company wishes to connect to a Chinese company or related organization, KOAMI is to mediate.

KOAMI said the 631 projects included offers made by Chinese officials when South Korean industrialists visited industrial cities and special economic zones in China this year.

Pak Tae-chun Declines To Comment on Arrival

SK1812093392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0922 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—Pak Tae-chun, former chairman of the majority Democratic Liberal Party, returned home Friday afternoon from a 40-odd-day overseas trip.

Pak, who is the honorary chairman of the Pohang Iron and Steel Co., left the country on Nov. 5 and visited Japan, China, Vietnam and Hong Kong.

Reporters swarmed to him as soon as he landed at Seoul's Kimpo International Airport to find out if he had been abroad because of political pressure, but Pak refused to answer.

He declined to comment when asked about the possibility of his joining the United People's Party, led by Hyundai Group founder Chong Chu-yong, and other future plans.

Soon after returning home, Pak cast his vote in the presidential election at a polling station set up at a primary school near his home at Pugahyon-dong, Seoul.

Pak tendered his resignation as a legislator Thursday in protest against the revelation by the majority party of his personal letter to Kim Yong-sam, the party's presidential candidate.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur Reiterates Commitment in Cambodia

BK1812093892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0859 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 18 (AFP)—Malaysian troops would not back out from Cambodia, defence and foreign officials assured Friday, a day after the defence minister revealed that Kuala Lumpur's troops were fired at for about eight hours last week.

Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry, said Malaysia's contribution to the U.N. effort in bringing peace to Cambodia "is very much worth the while."

"We have spent a lot of time to help bring back normalcy to war-torn Cambodia. It took more than 10 years and was a difficult process before we managed the 1991 Paris accord," Kamil told AFP.

Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak said late Thursday that Malaysian troops stationed near Battambang came under mortar fire for eight hours last Wednesday.

The fire had apparently come from an area controlled by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, Najib said, adding that the troops' base station was destroyed but no casualties were reported.

"The troops did not retaliate as this was the ruling set by the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)," Najib was quoted by local newspapers Friday as saying.

The Malaysian troops, which are part of the 900-strong 1st Royal Malaysian Rangers battalion serving with UNTAC since March this year, hid in their trenches during the attack, he said.

"There is no need for Malaysia to review the deployment of its troops under the U.N. banner despite the incident. We will continue with our commitment there", Najib said, adding that Malaysian troops were only advised to be more careful.

Assessing the situation in the wake of the latest confrontation between 46 Indonesian peacekeepers and the Khmer Rouge, Kamil said it was incumbent on Malaysia to ensure that peace returned to Cambodia.

Malaysia was not going to turn its back on Cambodia, Kamil said.

"Malaysia will benefit from growth in that region if peace is restored in Cambodia which hopefully will bring with it development and prosperity," Kamil said.

"We are looking to the day when Cambodia could eventually achieve economic prosperity and come to the political mainstream to even become a member of ASEAN."

ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, groups Malaysia along with Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi on Monday said Malaysia and Thailand had pledged to prod ASEAN into taking a more active role in the Cambodian peace process.

Thailand, together with China, formally aided the Khmer Rouge in its fight against the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh government.

"We have to be flexible and patient in a quest for a solution," Abdullah said.

Prince Formally Charged With 'Causing Hurt'

BK1712094692 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Dec 92 p 1

[By Tengku Shariffuddin, Haliza Ahmad, Saiful Mahadhir Nordin, and Iris Maniam]

[Excerpts] Johor Baru, Tues—The Tengku Bendahara of Johor, Tengku Abdul Majid Idris, was charged in the magistrate's court today with intentionally causing hurt to Perak goalkeeper Mohamed Jaafar Selvaraja Mohamed Vello after the Malaysia Games (Sukma) Hockey final here on July 10. [passage omitted]

He was charged under section 323 of the Penal Code which carries a maximum jail sentence of one year and (M)$2,000 or both on conviction.

Sessions Court judge Puan Siti Mariah Ahmad, who sat as a magistrate at today's proceedings, allowed bail of $2,000 in one surety and fixed three days for the hearing, beginning from January 26.

The personal bail of $2,000 for Tengku Majid was posted by Ungku Yusof Abdul Rahman who accompanied him to the proceedings which started at 2.40 pm [0840 GMT] and lasted about 10 minutes.

Tengku Majid, who was dressed in a dark blue double-breasted coat and grey trousers, was in the dock when the charge was read to him by court interpreter Latib Ibrahim in the packed courtroom. [passage omitted]

Minister Urges ICO To Extend Aid to Bosnians

BK1612035692 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0306 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 16 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia has called on members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to provide aid to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, now in refugee camps.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday that he made the request at a meeting with ambassadors of OIC countries at a meeting here recently.

Abdullah said he also briefed the ambassadors on Malaysia's programme in helping the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He said the government would place more emphasis on helping the people in refugee camps as it was more practical than bringing them to this country.

Malaysia was also making efforts to get wheat and kerosene supplies for the people of Bosnia as they needed the items badly, he said.

He hoped that OIC member countries could help reduce the sufferings of the Bosnian refugees.

Abdullah said Bosnia planned to set up its embassy in Malaysia. Its first mission is in Germany.

Malaysia had also informed the United Nations that it was prepared to send military personnel to help in the UN peace operation in Bosnia and Somalia and was waiting for the reply.

He also said the Malaysia-Indonesia joint commission would meet next month to find ways to resolve the Pulau Sipadan and Ligitan issue.

[Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay at 1430 GMT on 15 December, in a similar report, adds: "In another development, Datuk Abdullah said that state projects within the northern growth triangle involving Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia would not be discussed by the Malaysian-Thai Joint Commission. He said that the projects should not be referred to the commission for consideration. Only programs that involve Thailand and Malaysia can be discussed and studied by the commission."]

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Abduct 46 More Peacekeeepers 17 Dec

BK1712133092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1327 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 17 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas in central Cambodia took captive another 46 United Nations peacekeepers Thursday after releasing 21 captives earlier in the day, a U.N. spokesman said.

The 46 Indonesians and their Khmer Rouge captors were fully armed, and a U.N. spokesman did not rule out an armed confrontation.

"There is a potential for conflict which we are trying to avoid as per United Nations rules of engagement," spokesman Eric Falt said.

"We're a peacekeeping force, in Cambodia to monitor and maintain peace," he said. "We're not going to go shoot our way out of this."

"Since both are fully armed, we have to use negotiations," Falt said, adding that the guerrillas had B-40 rockets and semi-automatic weapons.

The United Nations erroneously reported earlier that a group of Indonesians who had stayed behind from the first captive group had returned safely to the provincial capital 10 kilometers (six miles) away.

That group, later joined by 34 more Indonesians, was seeking assurances that the Khmer Rouge guerrillas would refrain from taking more peacekeepers captive in the future, Falt said.

When they had finished, they attempted to leave the village, and a Khmer Rouge official "who had not been seen before," stepped in and prevented their departure, a U.N. official said.

The identity of the official was unknown, Falt said.

The official said he would only accept a written order to release the captives from his regional commander, General Men Ron, who was with his forces some distance north of Kompong Thom, Falt said.

U.N. officials were trying urgently to reach him, Falt said, but would not be able to do so until at least Friday.

Peacekeepers' Release Demanded

BK1712145392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Dec 92

["Communique of the spokesman of the Government of the State of Cambodia"—read by announcer]

[Text] It has been reported that the party of Democratic Kampuchea or Khmer Rouge, after making preparations for several months, has intensified its political, military, and terrorist activities in some parts of the country. These activities were carried out in line with an obvious strategy and plan to cause chaos, instability, and unrest inside the country so as to create an atmosphere of horror and anxiety among the people and to plunge the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] into an inactive and insecure position to prevent the planned election from being held.

Reports received from the provinces revealed that:

1. In Battambang Province, from 4 December, the Khmer Rouge launched a large-scale offensive on Pou Krasang, Kdol, and Ta Hen villages in Bavel District, using infantry supported by shelling from 130mm, 122mm, 85mm, 76.2mm mortars. Many people were killed and wounded and 1,807 familes with 13,215 members were compelled to leave their villages and houses to stay temporarily in (?Thmar Puok) district. They are suffering shortages of shelters, food, water, and medicine.

2. In Kompong Thom Province, on 15 December, a group of Khmer Rouge soldiers from division (?802) captured two UNTAC observers—a Chinese and a Frenchman—from O Sala, Kompong Svay Commune, Kompong Svay District. According to the reports, on 16 December, another group of UN officials who were sent to negotiate for the release of those hostages have been captured by the Khmer Rouge.

We condemn these acts of terrorism and demand that they immediately and unconditionally release the UN officials.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 17 December 1992

UN Spokesman Sees 'Potential for Armed Conflict'

BK1812051492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0445 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Kompong Thom, Cambodia, Dec 18 (AFP)—A standoff between 46 armed United Nations peacekeepers and their Khmer Rouge captors entered a second day Friday with word that the guerrilllas had at one point demanded a U.N. vehicle.

The situation had the potential for armed conflict, said a U.N. spokesman in the capital Phnom Penh. The details of the vehicle dispute were not immediately clear.

"I understand they (the guerrillas) want, or rather, there is some kind of dispute over a vehicle," spokesman Eric Falt said, but reiterated that "these people are not hostages."

About 70 Khmer Rouge guerrillas in central Cambodia took captive the 46 Indonesian peacekeepers armed with assault weapons Thursday, after releasing 21 captives earlier in the day.

"We're trying to defuse the situation," Falt said. Radio contact determined that all 46 were in good health after a night with their captors.

Their detention was ordered by a mysterious Khmer Rouge official who appeared on the scene as the Indonesians were preparing to leave the village of O'Sala, 10 kilometers (six miles) from this provincial capital, the spokesman said.

"There is a potential for conflict which we are trying to avoid as per United Nations rules of engagement," Falt had said late Thursday.

"Since both are fully armed, we have to use negotiations," Falt said, adding that the guerrillas had B-40 rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47s.

The incident was the second in two weeks in this heavily disputed province. In early December, a group of six peacekeepers spent four days as hostages while the local Khmer Rouge commander demanded that the Phnom Penh government forces surrounding him withdraw.

Twelve of the Indonesians had stayed behind following the release of the 21 Thursday, and were later joined by 34 more. They were seeking assurances that the Khmer Rouge guerrillas would refrain from taking more peacekeepers captive in the future, Falt said.

When they had finished, they attempted to leave the village, but the Khmer Rouge official "who had not been seen before," stepped in and prevented their departure.

His identity was unknown, Falt said.

The official said he would only accept a written order to release the captives from his regional commander, General Men Ron, who was with his own forces some distance north of Kompong Thom, Falt said.

The latest incident began Tuesday when a Chinese and a French military observer stopped voluntarily at a Khmer Rouge-controlled village to inquire whether the United Nations could carry out election registration, the spokesman said.

They had been taken there away from their vehicle by a lone Khmer Rouge guerrilla who asked them to speak to his commander, Falt said.

The two were invited to spend the night and talk to villagers, who complained about Phnom Penh forces shelling them to the Chinese military observer who speaks fluent Khmer, he said.

"They were not kept at that point. They were happy to stay overnight," he said.

But the following morning, when their American, Senegalese and Indonesian colleagues came looking for them, the entire group was not allowed to leave.

"The group of 21 was there. They said, 'okay, we've listened to your complaints; we have to go.' And they said no," the spokesman said.

Khmer Rouge Frees Peacekeepers, Keeps Vehicle

BK1812054892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0545 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 18 (AFP)—The 46 armed Indonesian peacekeepers held captive by the Khmer Rouge were allowed to leave a central Cambodian village Friday, but left a Landcruiser behind, a U.N. spokesman said.

"We certainly intend to get it back," spokesman Eric Falt said.

"I don't have any explanation at this stage" for why the vehicle was left behind.

But an Indonesian military source in Kompong Thom said the Indonesians had always been free to go, but that the Landcruiser was being held hostage.

The 46 Indonesians were en route back to the provincial capital of Kompong Thom and would arrive by early afternoon, Falt said.

"They said they're all fine," the spokesman said.

Peacekeepers Return to Kompong Thom

OW1812112292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1110 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec. 18 KYODO—Forty-six Indonesian peacekeepers who had been held by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in a hamlet in central Cambodia were allowed to return to Kompong Thom on Friday afternoon, a spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said.

The 46 soldiers left Phum O'Sala, which is under the guerrillas' control, in vehicles at around 10 A.M. Friday and arrived in Kompong Thom about three and half hours later, the spokesman said.

The U.N. peacekeepers had been ordered to remain in the village, just east of Kompong Thom, on Thursday after

they negotiated with the guerrilla faction over measures to prevent further trouble following the release of 21 U.N. peacekeepers who also had been held by the Khmer Rouge.

Khmer Rouge 'Sorely' Trying Indonesian Patience

BK1812091092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0832 GMT 18 Dec 92

[By Pascal Mallet]

[Excerpts] Jakarta, Dec 18 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge have sorely tried Indonesia's patience, but Jakarta wants the parties involved to keep striving for a peaceful solution before harsh measures are considered, sources said Friday.

Speaking to AFP shortly before 46 Indonesian peacekeepers abandoned an all-terrain vehicle to the Khmer Rouge on Friday, Wiryono, head of the Foreign Ministry's political office, said "we must not lose patience" with the guerrilla faction, which detained peacekeepers in two other incidents this month.

"We are having serious difficulties on the ground, and we call on the Khmer Rouge to do nothing that might aggravate the situation further," Wiryono said.

"Obviously if they attack U.N. soldiers physically, they will breach the limit," he said, while stressing that no individual government had jurisdiction over its nationals serving with the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Cambodia.

A diplomat here said: "If what is going on is the start of an explosion planned by the Khmer Rouge leadership and not just the isolated initiative of a local commander, it will be up to the United Nations Security Council to examine the problem."

Noting that his country was a co-sponsor along with France of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, which led to the peace plan's signing in October 1991. Wiryono said he felt "positive" and refused to denounce any party.

"Our troops are doing their best in a very delicate situation. We are proud of them," he added.

Captain Robert Lumempouw, commander of the 46 Indonesians, told AFP in the provincial capital of Kompong Tong that they had stayed with the Nissan 4x4 truck to stop the Khmer Rouge from taking it but left when orders from Phnom Penh released them from their obligation to guard the vehicle. [passage omitted]

Diplomats here say that Indonesia is committed to the 1991 Paris peace accords, and is more and more upset over the Khmer Rouge attitude.

Officially, the Khmer Rouge retain their membership along with the three other former warring Cambodian factions on the Supreme National Council, a transitional body that represents Cambodia's sovereignty.

But they refuse to disarm some of their troops and participate in the elections next year as planned for the second phase of the Paris peace plan.

"Using arms (now) would be a diplomatic failure," but clearly the "situation is becoming more and more difficult" and "the Security Council may have to resolve to declare an ultimatum to the Khmer Rouge," one diplomat said.

"All the U.N. can use is a carrot-and-stick approach. Unfortunately at the moment the stick is not large and the carrot not very attractive" to the Khmer Rouge, he added.

Khmer Rouge Lodges Complaint With UNTAC

BK1812013492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 Dec 92

["12 December Complaint" from General Tep Sokun, liaison officer of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, PDK, to Gen. John Sanderson, military chief of the UN transitional authority in Cambodia, UNTAC, forces; read by announcer]

[Text] General Tep Sokun, PDK liaison officer in the Mixed Military Working Group, on 12 December lodged a complaint with UNTAC's military Chief Gen. John Sanderson. He said the Vietnamese aggressor and puppet troops' plundered and shot dead villagers in a number of localities in the districts of Sre Ambel and Botumsakor of Koh Kong Province. The following is the essence of the grievance:

Dear General: I have received reports from PDK liaison officers stationed at Phlov Bambek, Route 4, and Route 18 in Sre Ambel district. They are as follows:

1. On 1 and 3 December, the Vietnamese and puppet troops from the mixed unit (B79), in conjunction with the puppet soldiers stationed in Sre Ambel district, attacked and plundered the people at [words indistinct] villages in Chroy Svay commune of the district and burned their property and houses. They also shot two villagers outside the villages and detained a number of people at Sre Ambel district office.

2. Between 7 and 12 December, some 100 Vietnamese aggressor and puppet troops attacked and plundered the people at (Chikres Leu), (Chikres Kraom), Prek Krasang Leu, Prek Krasang Kraom, and Ta Tei villages in Thmar Say commune of Botumsakor district and set fire to their property and homes.

We would like to complain about the incidents to Mr. John Sanderson and request that UNTAC take urgent measures to curb the criminal activities committed by the Vietnamese aggressor and puppet soldiers against the Cambodian people.

The outbreak has stemed from UNTAC failure to implement the Paris 23 October 1991 accord, specifically its refusal to hand over its role and authority to the Supreme National Council [SNC], which would allow the SNC to cooperate with UNTAC in verifying and controlling the withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

Radio Urges More Concrete Actions on Khmer Rouge

BK1812043192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Station commentary: "Will One Continue to Turn a Blind Eye and Deaf Ear?"]

[Text] The Khmer Rouge on 15 and 16 December captured and detained 21 more UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] staff members, including 15 Indonesian soldiers; four Chinese, French, American, and Senegalese observers; and two Cambodian interpreters. This is the second time in two weeks that UNTAC's staff has been captured and detained. The first time, on 2 December, the Polpotist faction arrested and detained six UNTAC personnel who were released later following active intervention by the UNTAC head and the international community. However, since UNTAC has been established in Cambodia, this is the Khmer Rouge's fourth capture and detention of UNTAC personnel. This includes the restriction of the UNTAC head's activities in Pailin but excludes 26 shootings of white UNTAC planes, blowing up UNTAC vehicles, shelling UNTAC headquarters in various areas, and attacks on UNTAC voter registration teams.

These brutal and cruel actions are absolutely unacceptable to the Cambodian people and international community. In the opinion of observers, these activities are a blatant opposition to UNTAC as well as the entire international community because the first confinement took place only two days after the UN Security Council [UNSC] adopted Resolution 792, and only one day after His Excellency [H.E.] Lieutenant General John Sanderson, commander of UNTAC forces, went to the Royal Kingdom of Thailand to discuss with Thai leaders the issue of enforcing Resolution 792.

The second capture and detention of UNTAC staff members represents the Khmer Rouge's most arrogant action, demonstrating that nobody can change their mind. This is also a flagrant insult to the good intentions of UN Secretary General H.E. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who has declared the door always open for the Khmer Rouge, with a view to turning them into a human being.

During the first release of the UNTAC staff, Mak Ben, Khmer Rouge representative in Phnom Penh, issued a stern warning to UNTAC stressing that should they persist in entering Khmer Rouge-controlled zones to implement its mandate the Khmer Rouge would continue to capture UNTAC personnel.

As such, the Khmer Rouge arrests and detentions of UNTAC staff members, as well as their successive violations of the Paris accord, are certainly part of their strategy of destroying the agreement and retaking power through military means in order to again massacre and wreak havoc upon the Cambodian people.

In addition, according to reliable reports, the Khmer Rouge have huge stockpiles of armaments and ammunition that can be used to wage war for three to five years, as well as provisions that can last for at least six months before foreign aid is necessary. Along with this, the Khmer Rouge's clandestine radio has continued to denounce UNTAC and has gone so far as to demand that the UNTAC head step down.

The Cambodian people, former victims of the Khmer Rouge's cruel and barbarous actions, wish to earnestly urge the international community to effectively implement UNSC Resolution 792 against the gang whose hands are stained with the people's blood, and to take more concrete measures against it according to its intransigence.

With goodwill to settle the problem peacefully through elections, the State of Cambodia is resolved to continue numerous possibilities of close cooperation with UNTAC but withholds the right of self-defense to efficiently prevent the Khmer Rouge violations and protect social and national gains and the people's lives.

In order to prevent the defeat of this unprecedented massive operation, one should not continue to turn a blind eye and deaf ear to the Khmer Rouge and let the party executing the accord become a victim.

Sihanouk Sends Thanks to Heng Samrin, Hun Sen

BK1712135992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Dec 92

["Message from His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, to His Excellency Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and chairman of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia, and His Excellency Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia and member of the Supreme National Council"—read by announcer]

[Text] Most beloved and esteemed excellencies:

My wife and I are very happy and greatly moved to have received the most important delegation of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and State of Cambodia [SOC] led by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim and composed of such outstanding members as H.E. Kong Samol, Prince Norodom Chakkapong, Their Excellencies General Sin Son and Ke Kimyan, and the other top-ranking colleagues who have come to visit me personally in Beijing from 15 to 17 December.

My wife and I wish to express our wholehearted thanks to the Buddhist Patriarch Pouthiveang and all monks, your excellencies and wives, leading and all members of the CPP and SOC, and to all children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all compatriots for their kindness in joining the grand religious ceremony at the Silver Pagoda Temple to beg for blessing from the Triple Gems for my quick recovery from illness.

This is good proof of the sincere affection that all monks, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and compatriots have for me and my wife.

My wife and I will always treasure this splendid spirit and gesture.

Please, your excellencies, accept my deepest and warmest love and respects from me and my wife.

[Dated] Beijing, 16 December 1992

Signed: Norodom Sihanouk.

Indonesia

Official Denies Troops Held by Khmer Rouge

BK1812113592 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1036 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 18 (ANTARA)—Deputy Chief of the Armed Forces (ABRI) Information Service Col. Slamet Sugiharjo denied reports here on Friday that Indonesian peacekeeping forces were held hostage by the Khmer Rouge.

The 46 quick reaction forces (QRF) of the Garuda XII B contingent (Konga XII B) which helped release two UN military observer officers held by the Khmer Rouge have been withdrawn Friday morning to their base in Kompong Thom, Sugiharjo said.

They were staying in a village, about 20 km southeast of Kompong Thom to safeguard the UN's equipment, he said denying reports by newspapers here and transnational news agencies.

He told ANTARA Konga XII B remained free to move within O'sala village with weapons in hands.

The Indonesian forces were sent to the village to free two UNMO officers, Major Man of China and Major Fontana of France who were held by the Khmer Rouge guerrillas on Tuesday.

Tuesday evening, the Khmer Rouge forces of 802 Division which was equipped with AK-47 assault rifles and B-40 grenade contacted through handy-talky the UNMO headquarters in Kompong Thom (180 km west of Phnom Penh).

Phnom Penh ordered Commander of Konga XII B Lt. Col. Ryamizard to study the reports and free those held hostage.

Lt. Col. Ryamizard sent QRF troopers led by Captain Robert Lumempouw in the evening. On Wednesday morning the forces consisting of 46 troopers succeeded in locating the village where the hostages were held.

After a tough negotiation, the Khmer Rouge leader Ket Kol was prepared to release the UN military observers at 1800 time on Wednesday.

Because the darkness has fallen and fear of mines planted in the road by the guerrillas, the Indonesian security forces which were led by Captain Robert decided to spend the night and to safeguard UN's equipment in the village.

The success to release the two UN officers is the fourth one under the help of Konga XII B with its quick reaction forces which consist of 110 personnel.

Another Quake Jolts Flores Region; No Deaths

BK1812072592 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Another earthquake, which registered 5.7 on the Richter scale, occurred in the Flores Sea this morning at 0300 West Indonesia Time [1900 GMT]. The Meteorological and Geophysics Department press statement which we just received this morning stated that the tectonic earthquake occurred about 100 km northwest of Maumere.

MP on Passage of Japanese Plutonium Ship

BK1712140592 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1244 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 17 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia should firmly refuse passage to the Akatsuki Maru through Indonesian waters, particularly through the chain of densely populated islands, the deputy chairman of Commission I of Parliament which is in charge of security, defence, foreign affairs and information, told ANTARA here recently.

Sambuaga pointed this out in connection with the scheduled route of the ship which is carrying 1.7 tonnes of plutonium, to sail through the Malacca Straits on her way to Yokohama from the French port of Cherbourg.

There is a possibility of fire breaking out on the ship or collision which will endanger mankind, he stressed.

The Japanese Government had indeed far in advance promised to guard and escort the plutonium-carrying ship very closely.

According to Sambuaga, Japan has the intention to develop plutonium only for peaceful purposes and not to produce, develop and distribute the element for the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

It is not easy to remove our anxiety over eventual risks, and if the Akatsuki Maru insist on passing through our national waters, we should appeal to the world organizations to take firm steps, Theo Sambuaga said.

Philippines

Ramos Approves $5 Million in Aid for Somalia

HK1812065392 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has approved $5 million in aid for the United Nations relief operations in Somalia.

In his letter to the UN secretary general, Ramos said the small aid will be able to help hungry Somalis. The president said the Philippines is taking part in the world community's concern for the famine problem in Somalia.

Government Asks World Bank for Extension

HK1812061792 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 18 Dec 92 p B-1

[Text] The government is asking the World Bank [WB] for another six months within which to comply with the terms of the $450-million financial structural adjustment loan (FSAL).

CB [Central Bank] Governor Jose Cuisia Jr. bared this as he expressed fear that the Central Monetary Authority (CMA) bill might not be passed before the end of the year.

The creation of CMA is one of the major conditions set by the WB when it approved the Philipines' request for FSAL in 1989. The conditionalities were originally set for compliance in 1991 but due to some slippages, it was extended for another year until December 31 this year.

If the government fails to get the FSAL, its future borrowings with the Japan export-import bank (eximbank) and overseas economic cooperation of Japan (OCEF), co-financiers of FSAL might be affected. These financial institutions have committed to share $150 million each.

The World Bank will not release the loan unless the CMA bill is passed and the P308 billion [Philippine pesos] deficit of the CB is restructured, it was gathered.

Cuisia said that the World Bank has realized that the CMA bill is useless unless the P308 billion deficit is restructured.

Army Not To Arrest NPA Rebels During Cease-Fire

HK1812064392 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 18 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Communist guerillas stormed an Army detachment in a remote Davao del Sur town Tuesday [15 December] killing a soldier and four militiamen, authorities said yesterday. The attack came barely a day before the National Democratic Front [NDF] ordered a unilateral ceasefire on Christmas and New Year.

In Pampanga, a clash between local police and suspected NPA [New People's Army] guerillas Wednesday left two guerillas dead and several others wounded, the Philippine National Police [PNP] reported. Reports said the two rebels, who remained unidentified, belonged to an NPA band that engaged operatives of the 17th PNP Mobile Force Company and the Sasmoan police in Barangay Malusak.

Earlier, President Ramos declared a five-day ceasefire during the Christmas and New Year holidays to allow both the government troops and the communists to spend the season with their families peacefully. However, despite the government and the NDF declaration, the Armed Forces issued directives not to let up counter-insurgency operations in the countrysides.

AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia said troops should not let down their guards "because there is no guarantee that the peace process being pursued by the government would succeed."

But Abadia said NPA rebels who will come from the hills during the holiday truce will not be arrested if they are unarmed and are not covered by arrest warrants. Such was among the specific guidelines issued by both the AFP and the PNP to troops in the countryside.

In Davao, reports said a group of heavily-armed NPA guerillas swooped down on a joint Army-militia detachment at Barangay Bonifacio, Kiblawan before midnight Tuesday. The ensuing gunbattle left Corporal Alexander Montefalcon and Seferino Mabangis, Antonio Manila, Rey Lantiese and Brico Villarval, all members of the local Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit dead. Reports said two teams from the Kiblawan police station are still pursuing the fleeing rebels, who brought with them some of their wounded comrades.

Rebel Leader Announces Readiness for Peace Talks

HK1812071792 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Rightist rebel leader General Jose Zumel has surfaced this morning at the Manila Polo Club to announce the readiness of the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union [RAM-KSP-YOU] for the government-initiated peace talks.

In a statement to National Unification Commission [NUC] representatives headed by Chairman Haydee Yorac, Armed Forces Chief Lisandro Abadia, and media representatives, Zumel specified the need for national peace. Zumel said the road to peace and dialogue is not through doubt but through loyalty and trust for each other.

Zumel lauded the government's willingness to attain peace and thanked the government for his and his comrades' temporary release in order to participate in the peace talks. Zumel further appealed for the release of remaining detained military officers and civilians before Christmas as testimony of the government's sincerity in national reconciliation.

Zumel clarified the RAM-KSP-YOU's surfacing is not an act of surrender of principles, but a recognition of the importance of the peace talks.

[Begin Zumel recording in English] We would like to assure our friends and critics alike that we are not abandoning our cause. We are merely shifting from underground activities to the more stable atmosphere of the negotiating table. Let not my presence here this morning be misconstrued as surrender. We are here at reasonable means to present issues and concerns which we have been fighting for these past few years. [end recording]

Meanwhile, NUC Chairman Yorac has expressed hope that after Zumel's appearance, Gregorio Gringo Honasan will follow. Yorac said the NUC has been continuously negotiating with Honasan's group regarding his position. Yorac admitted Honasan has formed a committee to coordinate with the NUC. Yorac has expressed high hopes

that Honasan will favor Zumel's early response to the government's call for peace talks.

[Begin Yorac recording in English] I think this all goes well for the peace effort that the government is conducting right now. This is a very hopeful sign that soon, we will be a unified country. [end recording]

Ramos Approves Mindanao Disarmament Plan

HK1712030092 Manila in English THE MANILA CHRONICLE WEEKLY 17 Dec 92 p 6

[Report by Manny Mogato]

[Text] Marawi City—President Ramos yesterday approved the first ever disarmament plan involving the voluntary disbandment and disarming of local politicians' private armies, recall of all government militiamen, and strict enforcement of a gun ban in the four provinces of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao [ARMM].

The President also ordered the military and police to document, register, and collect loose firearms in the region, estimated at 25,000 to 50,000 firearms.

He also ordered the immediate arrest, prosecution, and jailing of "those who would choose to defy the disarmament plan."

The plan was drafted by the Lanao del Sur Council of Elders headed by retired Gen. Mamalinta Lao to insure peaceful and orderly regional elections next February.

The President's effort to "preach disarmament" in the ARMM was boosted by the surrender of over 700 Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] guerillas during his visit here.

The separatist guerrillas turned over more than 300 assorted firearms, including four light machine guns and an undetermined number of explosives and ammunition.

The rebel returnees were led by Usman Hussain, alias Kumander [Commander] Soler, chairman of the Ranao Revolutionary Committee and commander of the MNLF-Misuari Faction in Lanao del Sur's second district.

Kumander Soler and eleven other MNLF field commanders were presented to the president after the latter met with leaders of the regional peace and order council at the Mindanao State University.

The MNLF rebels were the biggest batch of rebel returnees that have rejoined the mainstream since the Ramos administration assumed office five months ago.

The rebels said they were already tired of fighting the government and hiding in the hills so they decided to give up the armed struggle.

Inspired by the rebels' conciliatory gesture, the president asked local government officials and all government agencies in the region to undertake a massive "face to face" information drive to convince more rebels and holders of loose firearms to surrender their weapons.

He even enticed them with cash rewards and livelihood incentives under the government "balik-baril" [gun turnover] program or the "bring a rifle, improve your livelihood" program.

The President said he wanted the disarmament plan to be replicated in other Muslim provinces like Maguindanao, Sulu, and Tawitawi, where violent incidents normally occurred during elections.

He has elder statesmen, religious, and civic leaders in these three other provinces to organize their own council of elders to peacefully resolve rivalries among political clans and help campaign "dedicatedly" for the recovery of all loose firearms in the region.

Thailand

Spokesman on PRC Visit, Cambodia, Budget

BK1812121092 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] At 1030 today, the visiting deputy director of XINHUA and his delegation paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri. Reporting on the meeting, Sakthip Krairoek, the director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, said the foreign minister and the visitors discussed Thai-Chinese relations and use of mass media to enhance good bilateral relations at the national and people-to-people level.

Regarding the Khmer Rouge taking UNTAC officials hostage, Sakthip said to newsmen that the Khmer Rouge action is not productive because it undermines UN efforts to create peace in Cambodia. He said the Khmer Rouge should change its posture to be compatible with the international community, adding that he hoped the Khmer Rouge will rejoin the peace process. He said the Khmer Rouge has set up a new political party, which could be an indication that it would join the election in mid-1993.

Regarding the Foreign Ministry's efforts to extend the period for removing logs belonging to Thai concessionaires from Cambodia, which many feel that these efforts were misdirected, Sakthip said the Foreign Ministry has used extensive diplomacy to achieve the removal of as many logs as possible from Khmer Rouge areas before the deadline set by the United Nations.

Regarding the house debate of the budget bill on the Foreign Ministry allocation, Sakthip said a large portion of the ministry's allocation will be used for the improvement of Thai embassies abroad because some of the embassies are small and crowded. Some of these will have to be rebuilt so the Thai people can be proud of the elegance of their embassies and of the country's prestige. For this reason, the budget allocation sought this year may be bigger than previously.

U.S. 'Likely' To Use GSP as Pressure Over IPR

BK1812020392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Dec 92 p 21

[By Somphon Thaphanachai and Ratchaphon Laowanit]

[Text] Washington is highly likely to use its Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) as a bargaining tool to force other countries, especially Thailand, to provide more protection for intellectual property rights [IPR], instead of using Section 301 of the US Trade Act, according to Commerce Ministry Permanent Secretary Phatchara Itsarasena.

Mr Phatchara told BUSINESS POST yesterday US President-elect Bill Clinton and his administration would renew the free import duty concession programme of the GSP under the 1984 Trade and Tariff Act in July next year, and it was likely that the programme would then be re-designed to set more conditions for developing countries to qualify for GSP.

He said intellectual property rights protection would be a major priority issue for Clinton, and it was expected that the US Trade Representative would recommend that the president use the special concessions to press the United States' trading partners to provide more protection.

Mr Phatchara said the prospects for a favourable outcome to the Uruguay Round of world multilateral trade talks were bright and the round could be concluded early next year. But the likely outcome of the talks would not provide as much protection of intellectual property rights as the US has demanded.

To comply with General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rules, the US could not use unilateral action under Section 301 of the US Trade Act to force other countries to provide more protection, so the new administration could switch to the GSP programme, he said.

In the past few years, the US has threatened to impose trade sanctions on many of its trading partners' export products if the countries did not change their trade policies.

The US called on Thailand to provide more protection for pharmaceutical products under Thailand's new Patent Law, asking the government to protect drugs which were in the 'pipeline', including those which had been invented and were being tested but had not yet won approval for use in Thailand.

It also demanded that the Thai government amend the "compulsory licensing" provision which gives the government the power to revoke patent licences. But Thailand has resisted, saying it has already complied with GATT rules.

"The US may threaten to cut the GSP on Thai products, if the Chuan Government does not yield to Washington's demands," he said.

The GSP programme is an autonomous and temporary application of duty-free tariff preferences granted by the US to developing countries to help promote economic growth and industrialisation in the beneficiary countries.

But in the past several years Washington has used the special concessions as a bargaining tool to force its trading partners to comply with its demands.

The US had demanded that beneficiary countries open their markets to American products, eliminate or reduce barriers to service and investment, provide adequate protection of worker rights, as well as asking the countries to improve their intellectual property rights protection.

At the same time, a source said the US may further its use of GSP as a bargaining tool by using environmental issues as a new condition.

"Washington may force its beneficiary countries to resolve their environmental problems if the countries want to retain their GSP privileges," the source said.

To prepare itself, the Commerce Ministry plans to hire the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) to evaluate the impact on Thailand if the country is deprived of GSP privileges by the US.

Some analysts believe that the loss of GSP privileges would not severely affect exports to the US because Thai products have a comparative advantage in the US market anyway.

U.S. Envoy Said To Want Thai Troops in Somalia

BK1712073492 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 17 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Speaking to newsmen on 16 December after receiving the U.S. ambassador at the Army conference hall, Army Commander General Wimon Wongwanit said the U.S. ambassador tried to persuade Thailand to join the peace process in Cambodia. He said he assured the ambassador that the Army is ready to follow the government's policy. He also informed the ambassador that the Army has not supported the Khmer Rouge, pointing out that trading activities with the Khmer Rouge are conducted by the private sector through the government.

A military source revealed to the SIAM POST that the main topic of discussions between the U.S. ambassador and the Army commander was not the Cambodian issue but the U.S. wish for Thailand to send troops to Somalia. The U.S. side was told that the Army would only carry out the government's policy.

Delay Urged in Sanctions Against Khmer Rouge

BK1712094392 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Article: "The Government's Stance on the UN Resolution"]

[Text] Shortly after taking office, the government has been bombarded with all kinds of problems while critics point out that it has no concrete achievements in handling the country's affairs. Impartially speaking, the government has been making efforts to tackle various long-existing problems such as child prostitution, pollution caused by Mae

Mo power plant in Lampang Province, the water shortage, and the fall of crop prices. We must admit that government has done something, although some problems remain unsolved. The problem that is being talked about the world over, however, is the UN resolution on economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, which include measures to force the latter to comply with conditions stipulated in the Paris peace agreement. The UN decision has numerous repercussions on Thailand. The closure of the border will adversely affect the heavily invested logging and gem-mining operations in the Khmer Rouge-controlled areas by Thai businessmen. At present, the said industries generate annual profits of hundreds of million baht for the Thai businessmen. Moreover, a large number of Thai people are also doing trade in the Khmer Rouge areas. It is believed that the government will have to take in account the impact of the UN resolution on the Thai businessmen and national interests. The Thai investment in Cambodia was the result of the previous government's policy of turning the battlefield into a marketplace. When the Thai businessmen invested in Cambodia, they could not imagine that they would have to face this kind of problem, although they knew that genuine peace had not yet been restored in that country. Sympathetically, the government will have to comply with the UN resolution, otherwise, it will lose its credibility and prestige in the international arena and eyes of the people of the world. Many countries are watching closely to see how will Thailand react to the UN decision.

In short, Thailand and Cambodia, the two close neighboring countries, have maintained good trade contacts. Thailand must comply with the resolution to fulfill its obligations toward the United Nations. Meanwhile, the United Nations should be informed of the problems caused by the resolution to the Thai people and Thailand should ask for a delay in the implementation of the economic sanctions to alleviate or minimize the damages to Thai investment and trade in Cambodia. At the same time, the government must find ways to talk to the Khmer Rouge so that it will understand Thailand's position and the necessity that forces Thailand to comply with the UN resolution. The closure of the border should also be relaxed for the Thai and Cambodian people to maintain some contact; otherwise, robbery and crimes along the Thai-Cambodian border will be rampant and the Thai people along the border will endlessly live in misery.

The stance of our government toward the UN resolution is that we cannot avoid complying with the sanctions against the Khmer Rouge in order to save our credibility and prestige in the eyes of the people of the world. The closure of the Thai-Cambodian border, however, should be relaxed for the Thai and Cambodian people to keep some contact. If possible, the government should try to delay the implementation of the UN resolution so that it will have time to solve the problem of Thai investment in Cambodia.

Japanese Firms Accused of Timber Conspiracy

BK1812022192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Dec 92 p 8

[Text] Thai loggers have accused Japanese timber companies of conspiring to squeeze their rival out of business in Cambodia so that they can take over the entire industry.

Mr Nopphon Tangnusat, manager of the A. Victor Development Company, one of the three Thai logging firms granted concession rights to haul logs from Khmer Rouge-controlled zones in Cambodia, told the BANGKOK POST yesterday that there are 4-5 big Japanese-owned sawmills in Phnom Penh and two more are under construction.

He said he had only recently learned that the Japanese logging business had received additional logging concessions from the three other Cambodian factions.

Japan's accusation that Thai businessmen are destroying Cambodia's forests is ironic because Japan itself is doing the same thing, said Nopphon.

Another logger, Mr Chat Loetsupharukku the manager of the Mor Lor Lor 33 Company said he thought Japan wanted to squeeze out Thai logging companies so that it could deal directly with the Khmer Rouge as well because most of the forests are in Khmer Rouge-controlled zones.

An official with A. Victor Development said the company had speeded up the hauling of logs from Cambodia to beat the logging ban which will come into force after December 31.

More log-hauling trucks were brought in and all of them work up to 14 hours each day, he said.

The official claimed the ban will not work because certain people had coordinated with the Khmer Rouge to ensure business as usual.

Burmese Students Warned Against Political Moves

BK1712064392 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stresses that displaced Myanmar [Burmese] students in Thailand must not be involved in political movements. The Thai Government has given permission to Myanmar [Burmese] students who have entered Thailand illegally to register within 30 December for places in the Manilo Center in Rat Buri Province, where basic services and safety are provided for them on humanitarian grounds. The program is supported by the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Those students will be provided with scholarships in different fields. The Thai Government has no policy to repatriate Myanmar students at this stage. They are warned, however, not to make any political moves while remaining on Thai soil.

Asia-Pacific Space Agreements Reviewed

BK1712032192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Dec 92 p 10

[Text] Over a dozen countries in the Asia-Pacific region have for the first time reached multilateral agreements on space technology and applications, Meteorological Department deputy director general Kraisorn Pornsuthee said.

Mr Kraisorn, as secretary of the Transport anod Communications Ministry's Space Development Agency, said that the agreements resulted from "The Asia-Pacific Workshop

on Multilateral Cooperation on Space Technology and Applications" meeting held in China on November 30-December 8.

Other participants of the meeting comprised about 150 representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, the United States, the United Nations and Thailand.

An Asia-Pacific-level liaison committee to be staffed by officials of the participating nations will be set up for such future concrete space development cooperation on various issues as follows:

—bilateral and multilateral cooperation on space technology and applications for the common benefit of all countries in the region.

—preparations for adapting technology on telecommunications satellites, experimentations on space science and industries, small satellites, remote sensing, disaster tracing with satellites.

China, which is the initiator of such cooperation, will be in charge of coordinating with countries concerned to establish the liaison committee which is expected to take shape by the next Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multilateral Cooperation on Space Technology and Applications meeting to be hosted by Thailand either next December or January 1994.

According to Transport and Communications officials, this is the first cooperation on space technology and applications among Asia and Pacific nations compared with the similar type but long-run European Space Agency in which European countries have pooled their individual expertise and funds in developing space-related programmes such as rockets, satellites and space stations.

ACM Attends Border Meeting in Vientiane

BK1812070692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Woranat Aphichari reaffirms close Thai-Lao relations, saying that there are no disputes along the border. The two countries have a joint commission to solve bilateral problems. The commission holds an annual meeting hosted alternately in Thailand and Laos. This year's meeting was held in Laos early this week. The Thai delegation was led by the supreme commander.

Air Chief Marshal Woranat said the meeting reviewed the work of the past year, considered highly successful by both sides. He added Thailand need not impose more measures to solve Thai-Lao border problems. Thailand has also assisted Laos in education by granting scholarships for Lao officials to make study tours in Thailand in medical services and agriculture.

Chuan Discusses Cooperation With PRC Delegation

BK1712081592 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 16 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] Han Xu, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Thailand Li Shichun, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Chuan Likphai at Government House yesterday afternoon.

Han Xu and his five-member delegation arrived in Thailand on 9 December for a visit at the invitation of the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association. They called on the prime minister yesterday before returning home. Han Xu said he was very happy for the chance to call on the prime minister. He also conveyed Chinese Premier Li Peng's regards to Prime Minister Chuan. While in Thailand, Han Xu and his delegation met with several important persons and visited Rayong Province and Phatthaya City.

Prime Minister Chuan welcomed the visit by Han Xu and his delegation, saying that the visit has contributed to the promotion of Thai-Chinese friendship. Chuan also told Han Xu that while attaching importance to Thai-Chinese friendship, Thailand also pays attention to China's economic development.

Han Xu told Prime Minister Chuan that many Thai businessmen have gone to invest in China. The Charoen Phokkhaphan Company, especially, has contributed to China's economic development and construction. Han Xu also said that The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries is glad to see the economic growth in Thailand. Thailand has natural resources, which is beneficial to economic development. China is gearing its efforts to reform its economy. So, he wishes to see greater economic cooperation between China and Thailand.

At the meeting, the prime minister told Han Xu that he wants Thailand's northern region and China's southern region to have closer contacts.

'Social Critic' Returns From Germany

BK1512033392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Dec 92 p A2

[Text] Social critic Sulak Siwarak, returning from more than a year in exile surrendered to police early yesterday morning to fight charges of lese majeste and defaming former army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun.

Sulak, 60, who arrived from Germany at Don Muang Airport at 6 am, turned himself in to police waiting at the airport. He was then brought to the Attorney General's Office, where a public prosecutor released him after he offered Bt300,000 in assets as bail.

Sulak denied the charges. He told reporters outside the Criminal Court yesterday that he surrendered at this time as he believed the Chuan Likphai government was more democratic than the government installed by the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC).

"I insist that I'm loyal to the monarchy," he said, adding that he believed his case would be tried fairly in the judicial system.

He said his criticism of "a respectable institution" in the past was intended only to preserve the institution. On the contrary, the NPKC had tried to exploit the institution to destroy the country and the people, as shown in the May massacre, he added.

Sulak was scheduled to appear in Criminal Court on Dec 24 for a hearing on the case.

Amnesty International had earlier sent a message to His Majesty the King on Dec 8 expressing concern that the social critic was at risk of arrest and detention as a prisoner of conscience once he returned to Thailand.

Vietnam

'Dramatic New Progress' on MIA Issue

BK1812122092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1212 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 18 (AFP)—Two U.S. senators reported dramatic new progress Friday in resolving the issue of Americans missing from the Vietnam War, after Vietnam's president and communist party chief both pledged to turn over key military records.

"We're on a track now that we've never been on before," Senator John Kerry told AFP after meeting President Le Duc Anh and Secretary General Do Muoi, adding: "We're going to get answers. It can't all happen overnight, but we're going to get answers."

Kerry said Anh and Muoi both personally guaranteed that U.S. investigators would have access to records of the army's general political directorate, Vietnam's most hard-line communist bastion. Its wartime archives include debriefing records of U.S. prisoners of war (POWs) and other detailed documents that could shed light on the fate of those still listed as missing-in-action (MIA), Kerry said.

Kerry made his second visit to Vietnam in less than a month to again test Vietnam's cooperation before writing a report due January 5 on the results of a year-long investigation of the POW/MIA issue by a Senate committee that he chairs.

He was accompanied by Senator Bob Smith, the POW/MIA committee's vice-chairman, who has been a champion of veterans' groups and families of the missing who charge that Hanoi is still holding U.S. prisoners.

Smith also sounded upbeat about the two-day visit.

"This is a major step and we're all very pleased," he said, after Vietnam provided a written pledge to step up cooperation in all six areas requested by the United States.

The visit appeared to mark another small step in an increasingly rapid shift toward normalization between Vietnam and the United States, nearly 18 years after Hanoi defeated the U.S.-backed Saigon government.

Washington has demanded full cooperation from Hanoi on the MIA issue as a condition for lifting the U.S. economic embargo and establishing diplomatic relations.

After Kerry reported "unprecedented" cooperation during his November visit, U.S. President George Bush this week loosened the embargo by authorizing U.S. companies to open offices and sign—but not execute—contracts in Vietnam.

Hanoi began releasing several thousand wartime photographs and documents from its military archives in October, though U.S. military MIA specialists accompanying Kerry said only about five percent were proving useful.

But of the key documents specifically requested by the POW/MIA committee, all were either turned over or promised during this visit, Kerry said.

Vietnam also pledged in a memorandum to search for information relating to U.S. airmen downed near the so-called Ho Chi Minh Trail, both in its own files and in cooperation with officials in neighboring Laos.

In a pledge that Smith described as one of the most significant of the visit, Hanoi said it would further facilitate investigations of reported sightings of missing Americans seen in Vietnam.

"As long as you have reports ... you have to investigate them," Smith said, when asked whether he suspected any U.S. POWs could still be alive in Vietnam nearly 20 years after the war.

Muoi and Anh invited U.S. veterans and families of the missing to visit Vietnam and see the situation for themselves, Kerry said.

Hanoi says it released all U.S. prisoners in 1973. The bodies of 1,656 Americans were lost in Vietnam during the war, but U.S. military officials say they have evidence that all but at most 135 died.

Of those, U.S. investigators are focusing on about 40 cases on which they believe Vietnam should have more information, although they say they have found no credible evidence that any of the men are alive.

Reportage on National Assembly Second Session

Defense, Security Committee on Tasks

BK1712095792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The National Assembly's National Defense and Security Committee has done a very good job during the period between the two sessions of the Ninth National Assembly. The committee worked directly with the Ministry of Interior, the Border Defense Force Command, the Hanoi People's Council, the Capital Military Region Command, and the Ministry of National Defense. During these working sessions, various pressing issues were discussed to find ways and means to enhance the strength of various national defense and security agencies. Plans are being

mapped out to increase the budget and improve technical equipment for these agencies.

The committee also assigned a delegation to study national defense and the security situation in Ho Chi Minh City, the 7th Military Region, and the provinces of Tay Ninh, An Giang, Lang Son, and Cao Bang.

In Ho Chi Minh City, the delegation of the committee visited a number of the Armed Forces units, made an on-the-spot observation on the maintenance of equipment and training; inspected barracks of cadres, combatants, and new recruits; observed a training session of reserved officers, and visited various scientific establishments of the city. The experiences derived from these observations and visits will help the committee to formulate concrete and essential programs to take better care of cadres and combatants.

In Tay Ninh, An Giang, and Lang Son Provinces, the delegation heard a report on plans to build a border defense line and visited dozens of border defense posts. It also heard reports on measures to curb smuggling, projects to build local infrastructure, plans to improve the people's daily life at the border areas, and other important issues aimed at strengthening the national defense and security work.

After its observation tour to these provinces, the delegation will condense the gists of various problems raised by these localities to request a better budget for national defense and security tasks; design more effective measures to curb smuggling and to defend the border areas, maintain social order and safety, and effectively build the all-people national defense.

While completing a report to be presented to the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session, the committee is formulating its 1993 action plan, and drafting a number of laws related to the border defense task, control of foreigners, and security and so forth.

17 Dec Proceedings Reported

BK1712102592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Today is the eighth day of the Ninth National Assembly's second session.

The National Assembly held a plenary session at the conference hall to deliberate the draft bill amending and supplementing a number of articles in the law on foreign investment in Vietnam.

National Assembly Vice-Chairman Phung Van Tuu directed the session.

All the deputies shared identical viewpoints on the need to amend and supplement the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam in order to create favorable conditions for our open-door policy during the renovation stage.

Dealing with 10 articles to be amended, speakers concentrated on discussing many questions. For instance, private businessmen can engage in joint ventures with foreign countries; the Vietnamese side can contribute capital under the forms of natural resources; the right to use land, water bodies, and territorial seas; whether or not the length of operation for enterprises with foreign investment will be fixed at 50 or 70 years; the setting up of processing zones; and the like.

Some speakers also asked the state to quickly reconsider issuing guide notes to the bylaws so we can have a basis for timely deployment of relevant laws. Procedures to consider various joint venture projects should also be promptly renovated. Only by doing so can we lure more business enterprises into investing in our country.

This afternoon, the National Assembly will continue in session at the conference hall.

Further on 17 Dec Proceedings

BK1712140392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Today the National Assembly continued its work at the conference hall.

In the morning, the National Assembly deliberated the draft bill amending and supplementing a number of articles in the law on foreign investment in Vietnam.

Expressing their views, the National Assembly deputies all affirmed that the law on investment serves as the legal basis for foreign investment activities in Vietnam. However, after a period of implementation and to continue to ensure that it suits the development of the renovation process, it is necessary to amend a number of articles.

The deputies concentrated on analyzing various points, such as the length of operation for enterprise with foreign investment, the setting up of processing zones, the contribution of capital by the Vietnamese side, and the promulgation of by-laws to organize trade unions in various joint venture projects with the aim of protecting the legitimate rights of Vietnamese laborers.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly held a debate on work related to the struggle against corruption and smuggling and contributed views on the amendment of the law on criminal procedure and the criminal law.

Most of the views presented by the deputies were focused on the need to reexamine various mechanisms and policies and promptly make supplements to all the laws concerned. They said:

Along with this process, it is necessary to carry out a purge among the ranks and to resolutely eliminate deviant and degenerate persons. Although the government has defined policies and measures for the struggle against corruption and smuggling, it is necessary to continue advancing measures to encourage all social and mass organizations to participate in this struggle.

Cases that have been discovered should be prosecuted and brought to trial quickly and the culprits should be subject to more severe penalties. The struggle against smuggling and corruption would achieve poor results if they were given a suspended sentence and then allowed to live in retirement.

Communique No 6

BK1712152592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Dec 92

["Communique No. 6 of the Ninth National Assembly's second session"]

[Text] On 17 December, the National Assembly held a plenary session at the conference hall under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu.

In the morning, the National Assembly deliberated the draft bill amending and supplementing a number of articles of the law on foreign investment in Vietnam.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly held a debate on the draft bill amending and supplementing a number of articles of the criminal code and the law on criminal procedure and various measures against corruption and smuggling.

18 Dec Morning Proceedings Reported

BK1812075992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Today, the National Assembly held its plenary session at the Conference Hall to discuss anticorruption and antismuggling issues and to debate the amendment and supplement to articles of the Criminal Code and the draft bill on the amendment and supplement to some articles of the Law on Legal Proceedings. National Assembly Deputy Chairman Phung Van Tuu directed the session.

The opinions expressed agreed with the prime minister's decision on anticorruption and antismuggling work. The deputies concentrated their efforts analyzing causes of corruption and smuggling. They agreed that these practices come from the government's loose management, loopholes in policies, lenient punishment from law enforcement agencies, the practice of covering one another, and so forth. They said that fighting corruption and smuggling must be done determinedly, consistently, and thoroughly and it must be carried out from high-ranking levels down without exempting anybody. The fight must gain support and its work must rely on people and public opinion. Initially, some cases discovered by mass media agencies must be publicly tried to win back the trust of the public. And separate policies and awards should be applied for cadres working in law enforcement areas.

The deputies also contributed many opinions to the abovementioned laws regarding good behavior bonds, penalties, and charges on fake goods production, bribery, and so forth.

In the morning session, the deputies listened to the full text of the revised draft bill on National Assembly meeting regulations after opinions contributed by the National Assembly deputies were compiled. The draft bill was presented by Comrade Luong Ngoc Toan, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, and the deputies voted to pass it.

This afternoon, the National Assembly continues its work at the Conference Hall.

1992 Tasks, Achievements Noted

BK1712094992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 Dec 92

["Today's Problem" program]

[Text] Dear friends, there are only 22 more days to conclude work in 1992, but we have sufficient information to say that our nation is gradually advancing toward stabilization and development. 1992 is the first year in which our people have fulfilled or overfulfilled various main targets adopted by the National Assembly.

The GNP in 1992 is expected to be increased by about 5.3 percent as compared to 1991. Food production output reached 24 million tonnes, exceeding plan norm by 1.5 million tonnes. Agricultural production output increased by 4.4 percent. Industrial output increased by 15 percent, exceeding plan norm by 6-7 percent. Crude oil production exceeded the target of five million tonnes per year. Whereas in 1990 and 1991 the inflation rate stood at almost 70 percent annually, in 1992 it fell to 15 percent annually or an average of less than 1.5 percent monthly. The economy has comprehensively developed, inflation has been contained thus helping other sectors to score new progress, while illegal departures by boats have stopped. It can be said that, with the achievements scored in 1992, the Vietnamese people have been relieved somewhat from their prime concerns over various issues. This has created a firmer confidence in our renovation undertaking despite the prevalent difficulties. The image of a new Vietnam has gradually taken shape. Various countries in the region and the world have placed their confidence in our system.

The Ninth National Assembly's Second Session to be opened tomorrow, 9 December, at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi, will present the panorama view of our country after one year of making great efforts and devotions by our entire party and people. On this basis, the National Assembly will adopt various plans and projects and approve the allocation of budgets for 1993, the pivotal year for the 1991-95 five-year development plan.

Similar to the recent first session of the Ninth National Assembly, the Vietnamese people are waiting for good news and new decisions of the Ninth National Assembly's second session as well as its measures to resolve issues related to wage, employment, cultural and social activities, and especially the current complicated struggle against corruption and smuggling.

To meet requirements in the new situation, the Ninth National Assembly's second session will supplement and amend some stipulations in the Criminal Code, the Law on Criminal Procedures, and the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam. Moreover, the National Assembly will continue to discuss the Law on Land to publicize it to solicit ideas from the people at large. The National Assembly will also discuss draft programs to formulate the law on bankruptcy, the labor law, the law on the population, the law on

oil and gas, and so forth. This is aimed at gradually advancing toward perfecting the legal system of the country, a very important task of the Ninth National Assembly.

Prior to attending the Ninth National Assembly's second session, various deputy delegations in provinces organized meetings to hear the voters' ideas and aspirations. Generally speaking, voters throughout the country welcomed new progress and encouraging achievements scored in 1992. They also contributed many concrete suggestions aimed at resolving various acute social issues, especially corruption and smuggling. The voters questioned corruption involving government officials and smuggling involving 70 percent of state-run business establishments. As a result, to effectively curb corruption and smuggling, it is necessary to formulate concrete laws and regulations. Each individual must strive to boldly overcome his/her covetousness to satisfactorily carry out this task. Public opinion also questioned the sluggishness in dealing with corruption cases, the tendency to extend leniency, too many suspended sentence executions, and the lassitude in trying these cases, and so forth.

It is obvious that corruption and smuggling are in close association. These social vices are being carried out by certain rings of bad elements, some of whom are personnel of our state agencies. As a result, anticorruption and smuggling is a very difficult task.

Most of the voters also informed National Assembly deputies that our legal system is not uniform yet and has not reached a perfect point. If laws are not seriously enforced, it is impossible to oppose corruption and smuggling, let alone insist on the strict observance of rules and regulations.

Dear friends, issues of prime concern to voters throughout the country are problems that the National Assembly must spend time and energy to study and resolve. We are waiting to see—through various mass media channels—new and quick decisions adopted by the Ninth National Assembly's second session to resolutely resolve various pressing issues, thereby leading the country into 1993 with firmer confidence and stability for further development.

Le Duc Anh, Vo Van Kiet Condole Indonesia

BK1512151692 Hanoi VNA in English 1448 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 15—President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet have sent a message to Indonesian President Suharto expressing sympathies with the Indonesian people over the losses in lives and property caused by a strong earthquake on Flores Island.

Vo Van Kiet Meets Indonesian Ambassador

BK1712152792 Hanoi VNA in English 1514 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 17—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet this morning met Indonesian Ambassador to Vietnam Juana to sympathy with President Suharto and the Indonesian people over the losses caused by the recent earthquake on Flores Island.

The earthquake is reported to have caused 2,500 persons dead or missing.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said that the Vietnamese people sympathise with the Indonesian Government and people in their losses, and expressed his belief that the Indonesian peoples will overcome the aftermaths bring the life of the peosple on Flores Island back to normal soon.

Receives Australian Former Premier

BK1512145092 Hanoi VNA in English 1429 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 15—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here this afternoon Australian ex-Prime Minister R.J. Hawke and the accompanying Australian businessmen on their current visit to Vietnam.

The Vietnamese prime minister welcomed Mr. Hawke and his party's visit as a further move of Australia to develop the traditional friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He recalled that Australia is the first country to unilaterally resume direct aid to Vietnam and has lent substantial support to Vietnam in many fields, especially trade and telecommunications.

Mr. Hawke identified a number of areas in which Australia and Vietnam might cooperate effectively such as macroeconomic mangement, banking, educational development, and training in economic managers.

He expressed his admiration for the Vietnamese people's achievements in national construction and defence, especially in the all-round renovation.

Receives Outgoing Thai Envoy

BK1712153792 Hanoi VNA in English 1505 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 17—Prime Minister [P.M.] Vo Van Kiet this afternoon warmly received Thai Ambassador to Vietnam Suraphong Chaiyanam who paid him a farewell visit at the end of his term of office.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet appreciated the ambassador's contributions to the strengthening of the friendship and the development of Vietnamese-Thai cooperative relations during his term of office in Vietnam.

P.M. Vo Van Kiet said: 'Vietnam and Thailand are close neighbours', and both hold important positions in the region. Leaders of the two countries have made constant efforts in building mutual understanding and trust, and in developing cooperation for each country's prosperity, for peace, stability, 'friendship and cooperation in the region. The recent visit to Vietnam by Thai Crown Prince Wachiralongkon on behalf of the king and the coming visit by Thai princess are the fine demonstration of those efforts'.

P.M. Vo Van Kiet expressed his hope that the two countries would continue their efforts in implementing well

their agreements on cooperation as well as setting all remaining issues including the one on overlapping areas between the two countries and the establishment of order in Vietnam's southwest sea area.

The outgoing Thai ambassador affirmed that Thailand's external policy is to attach importance to the strengthening of its relations with neighbours including Vietnam. The Thai-Vietnamese relations have made noticeable progress in recent years and are developing positively.

He expressed his belief that the remaining issues will be settled soon and the agreements already signed and to be signed will serve as a stable basis for the consolidation and development of the Thai-Vietnamese neighbourliness in the future.

Meets Burmese Delegation

BK1812120592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] A delegation of the Myanmar [Burma] Ministry of Agriculture led by Minister Myint Aung visited our country from 5 to 15 December to learn from our country's experiences in agricultural development.

During the visit, Minister Myint Aung and his entourage paid floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, held talks with Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Nguyen Cong Tan, and toured the Vietnam Institute of Agricultural Science, the Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute, and a number of agricultural production establishments and cooperatives in Vinh Phu and Haiphong. They were also warmly received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

In a working session with Minister Nguyen Cong Tan, as well as all the places the delegation had visited, Minister Myint Aung highly appraised Vietnam's achievements in the field of agriculture, especially grain export, and its diversified experiences in the agricultural science and technology revolution and the renovation of agricultural management.

Minister Myint Aung expressed the hope of obtaining cooperation and assistance from Vietnam in order to help Myanmar develop its agriculture in a way that matches its capabilities and meets its needs for grain and food at present. He also expressed the wish to purchase farm machines, phosphate fertilizer, and cement from Vietnam and, in return, sell to Vietnam a number of products, especially timber, of which Vietnam is in need.

On this occasion, Minister Myint Aung invited Vietnamese specialists to Myanmar to assist in certain areas of agriculture.

Deputy Premier Nguyen Khanh Visits Bac Thai

BK1712080392 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] In preparation for the seventh [as heard] session of the Ninth National Assembly, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh and other assembly deputies of Bac Thai met with many voters in Thai Nguyen city and in the mountain district of Phu Luong. They have also met with voters representing the various echelons and sectors of Bac Thai Province.

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh heard reports on the socioeconomic situation in the province and other localities [words indistinct] since early this year.

Comrade Nguyen Khanh took note of the many suggestions from the localities. For instance, the central government should map out an investment policy to give cities a facelift and should take harsh measures to curb social vices.

Voters from the villages of Hiep Thanh and (An Luong) of the mountain district of Phu Luong suggested that the government improve the policy toward cadres at the grass-roots level and take stern measures to curb social vices such as corruption and smuggling at their very root. The state should have a policy to provide support for peasants in increasing production, the adjustment of agricultural tax, investment in infrastructure facilities such as transport, water conservancy, and so forth, and to pay attention to education and public health in the highlands.

Nguyen Khanh Receives PRC Economic Delegation

BK1712065192 Hanoi VNA in English 0638 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 17—[Word indistinct] delegation of China's State Commission for Restructuring Economy led by Prof. Yang Qixian, member of the commission and permanent director of the Association For Restructuring Economy, paid a woking visit to Vietnam from Dec. 6-12 at the invitation of the Institute of Economic a [word indistict] Research of Vietnam.

The delegation working session and exchanged [words indistinct] on restructuring economic system with the host institute, the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the State Bank, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, the Government Pricing Commission and the [words indistinct] of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee .

The delegation also visited a number of state-owned and private production establishments in some northern provinces and in Ho Chi Minh City.

Vice Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh received the Chinese guests on Dec. 16.

Need for Good Sino-Hanoi Relations Emphasized

BK1712104892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 17 Dec 92

[From the "International Topic" program]

[Text] The International Section of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in its Saturday issue carries an article by Hong Thanh Quan about Sino-Vietnamese relations to mark the

ending of PRC Premier Li Peng's official friendship visit to Vietnam. The article says:

Working under the motto "Closing on the past and looking to the future", recently, Vietnam and China have striven to strengthen and consolidate their relations of neighborliness. On its part, our government has always shown its goodwill and sincere willingness to increase Sino-Vietnamese relations. As ever, we advocate the solving of disputes by negotiations on the basis of internationally standardized principles such as respecting each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, equality, mutual benefit, and coexistence for the benefit of the region and each country.

The writer holds that both China and Vietnam are very important factors in the guarantee of security and stability in the Asia Pacific Region. The relation of friendship between the two countries has great significance for the entire region, especially at the present time when the world is encountering great, very unpredictable challenges. Looking to a better future, the two countries definitely will develop their great potentials in all domains of development cooperation.

Economic Situation, Progress in 1992 Reviewed

BK1512060192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 11 Dec 92

["Talk of the Week" program: "Review of the Situation in Vietnam in 1992"]

[Text] Before the yearend session of the Ninth National Assembly, Minister and Chairman of the Government Office Mr Le Xuan Trinh had a meeting with the press circles. He held that 1992 solved the stability and development of Vietnam. This is also the first year in which Vietnam surpassed all the major targets set forth by the National Assembly.

Minister Le Xuan Trinh pointed out that 1992 ended with comprehensive economic achievements. The national income is estimated to be 5 percent higher than that of the previous year, the agricultural output increased by 4.4 percent, and food output alone will reach 34 million tons. The achievements recorded in 1992 are of great significance despite the fact that the country has not yet recovered completely from its economic crisis. The achievements lay the groundwork for further development in the coming years, especially in fulfilling the socioeconomic targets of the 1991-95 five-year plan.

In 1992 the southern people took a major step in fighting against inflation and preventing an economic crisis. The inflation rate was reduced from 70 percent in the last two years to the present rate of 1.5 percent monthly.

Many state economic establishments restored their role in the open-door economy. Minister Le Xuan Trinh affirmed that 1993 will be a significant year for the implementation of the state five-year plan 1991-1995 and also for the implementation of the economic strategy planned to link Vietnam into the year 2000. To achieve this the state and all state economic services will join efforts and resources in curbing inflation and economic prices and will strive to obtain bigger achievements to lay the ground for the coming years.

Mr. Le Xuan Trinh once again affirmed the party and the state's policy regarding external economic relations on the principle of equality and mutual interest with all countries, disregarding their different social and political systems and of the principle of peaceful coexistence. The minister also reaffirmed Vietnam's wish to befriend all nations for peace, independence, and development.

Bui Thien Ngo Attends National Police Conference

BK1712100792 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] On 10-11 December 1992, the Ministry of Interior held a national conference for the Security Police Guard Force, which has the duty to guard all party and state leading organizations at central and local levels as well as important economic and cultural establishments, and to perform mobile combat for the protection of the national security, social order, and safety.

In the last two years, despite complicated changes in the world and difficult national socioeconomic situation, the entire police force in general, and the Security Police Guard Force in particular, have proved their total loyalty to the party and fatherland. They have strived to overcome all difficulties and satisfactorily accomplished duties entrusted by the party.

Comrade Bui Thien Ngo, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, secretary of the Public Security Party Central Committee, and minister of interior addressed the conference. He specially emphasized all-field achievements scored by our people in the past years as well as efforts of the Security Police Guard Force. He reminded the leading cadres of all units to improve the political and ideological education and training for grass-roots cadres. He also advised them to upgrade the combat readiness, discipline, and living standards of the police force.

Nguyen Ha Phan Visits Can Tho Province

BK1512115592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Comrade Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the party Central Committee and National Assembly Vice Chairman recently paid a working visit to Can Tho Province.

Leaders of the province and the districts of Chau Thanh and Phung Hiep reported to Comrade Nguyen Ha Phan on some outstanding issues of the socioeconomic situation of their localities in 1992.

At the visited localities, Comrade Nguyen Ha Phan stressed one of the main tasks in 1993 is to build pure and strong party committees to satisfactorily carry out the mass mobilization work. Comrade Nguyen Ha Phan especially urged sectors and echelons to strive to successfully

carry out the program against hunger and poverty. For the city of Can Tho, which has just been officially recognized as a second category city, Comrade Nguyen Ha Phan asked various units to formulate plans to construct socioeconomic infrastructure and to improve national defense and security tasks.

Comrade Nguyen Ha Phan took note on many constructive opinions from local voters on agriculture production, on providing loans to the peasants, on education and public health services, on formulating policies toward cadres of wards and villages, and on the determination to oppose corruption, smuggling, and waste.

Doan Khue, Phan Van Khai at Military Meeting

BK1712101992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] The General Staff of the Vietnamese People's Army recently held a conference to review training reform-related activities over the past three years—from 1990 to 1992—and the 1992 combat training tasks, keep abreast of the 1993 military training and political indoctrination tasks, and provide tactical and technical training to commanders and deputy commanders of various military regions, divisional groups, Army corps, Armed Services, and combat branches as well as to division commanders and cadres of various schools and organs under the Ministry of National Defense.

Delegates to the conference discussed, thoroughly understood, and had many identical viewpoints on the various subjects discussed while frankly and democratically contributing many practical views to the training of troops and the leadership tasks of various echelons and sectors.

Addressing the conference, Senior General Doan Khue, minister of national defense, said that in training, efforts should be made to renovate training substance and methods to suit the psychology, customs, and knowledge of each individual, ensuring that training be accompanied by practice.

Visiting and addressing the 1992 all-Army conference, Comrade Phan Van Khai, member of the Political Bureau and deputy prime minister, commended cadres and combatants for their scholastic spirit and for having ensured safety, both for themselves and their equipment. The comrade emphatically said: Troops should enthusiastically undergo training to improve their combat readiness, and should strive to fulfill the two strategic tasks of firmly protecting the Socialist Vietnamese Fatherland and contributing to successfully building socialism in Vietnam.

Nguyen Duc Binh Addresses Publishing Ceremony

BK1512101792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] In Hanoi this afternoon, 4 December, the Ministry of Culture and Information held a solemn ceremony to mark the 55th traditional day of the publishing and printing sector, the 40th anniversary of the decree signed by President Ho Chi Minh to establish the National Printing House, and the 35th anniversary of the decree signed by President Ho Chi Minh on publishing regulations.

Speaking at the ceremony, Comrade Nguyen Duc Binh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, pointed out our party and state's special attention to the publishing and printing sector. He especially conveyed General Secretary Do Muoi's views urging the sector to produce only useful publications and refrain from printing harmful items.

The comrade also stressed that the party and the state urge cadres, intellectuals, scientists, artists, and writers to participate in constructing and formulating development strategy for the sector.

Quang Ninh, PRC's Guanxi Cooperate on Bridge

BK1712113592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] In compliance with an agreement reached between the two Governments of Vietnam and China, the communications sectors of the two provinces of Quang Ninh and Guangxi are cooperating to build two concrete bridges to replace the old Bac Luan bridges. The new bridges, which will be located at the same sites where the old bridges were located, are some 125 meters long and seven meters wide. The project began on 15 September and is now in the stage of intensive construction.

The two bridge-building teams and a concrete slabs manufacturing plant of the Thang Long Bridge Engineering Incorporated have just finished the construction of two good quality pillars with a 14-beam concrete span ahead of schedule. Now they are preparing to install this span sometime in early December.

From the other side of the river, a unit of the Land Bridge-Building Corporation under the (Khamzhou) region is making intensive efforts to complete its part of the work. The two bridge-building teams of both sides have had a chance to meet each other. They have exchanged experiences and pledged to each other that the bridges will be linked up by the coming Lunar New Year.

Women's Union Delegation Visits Italy 2-12 Dec

BK1512142092 Hanoi VNA in English 1405 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 15—A delegation of the Vietnam Women's Union [VWU] led by its president, Mrs. Truong My Hoa, visited Italy from December 2-12 at the invitation of the Women's House in Torino City and the Vietnam Cultural House in Italy.

In Torino, the delegation met various groups of women to exchange information and discussed measures to develop the relations between the two women's organisations in the coming year. It visited the Vietnam Cultural House, which was set up over one year ago to promote relations between the two countries. It also called at the Training Centre of

the International Labour Organization (ILO), which has helped the VWU in personnel training.

In Rome, the delegation was received by representatives of the Italian Social-Democratic Party (PSDI), Ms Elga Montagna and Ms Livia Turco. It was also received by Mr. Mazina and Mrs. Pinuccia Bertone of the Italy-Vietnam Friendship Association, and Mrs. Tina Alsemi, president of the Commission for Equality for Women of the Office of Italian Council of Ministers.

The delegation also met with representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italian ambassador and representative of Australia to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD) to exchange information and discuss measures to help Vietnamese women in development activities.

While in Italy, the delegation also visited Piemente region and Bologna City.

Three Export Zones Planned for Da Nang City

BK1712062792 Hanoi VNA in English 0551 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 17—According to the construction service of Quang Nam-Da Nang a plan for the development of Da Nang, the biggest city in central Vietnam and the third in Vietnam after Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi has been worked out.

Under this plan, by the year 2010 Da Nang and its adjacent areas reaching north to Hai Van Pass and East to the ancient town of Hoi An, will have three export processing zones, a tourist area and a number of commercial centres.

At present, work has started on two highways linking the city centre to the airport and the national north-south highway 1.

Health Minister at Nutrition Conference in Rome

BK1512072992 Hanoi VNA in English 0656 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 15—"Vietnam welcomes the initiatives of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) and supports the world declaration and programme of action on nutrition" said Mr. Nguyen Trong Nhan, minister of public health, at an international conference on nutrition held in Rome from Dec. 3-11. During the conference, Nguyen Trong Nhan met with Bernard Koucher, French minister of health and humanitarian action, the Australian minister of manufacture industry and energy, the executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). He also met with a number of Italian non-governmental organizations to discuss their assistance in upgrading and re-equipping Vietnamese hospitals.

Australia

Opening of PRC Grain Market To Boost World Trade

BK1612062892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] SYDNEY, Dec 16 (AFP)—Opening China's grain market could bring a rapid expansion of world trade and be of greater benefit to Australia than farm subsidy reform in the European Community, according to a government report released Wednesday.

"The wider linking of Chinese to international grain markets is the largest challenge and opportunity for international grain diplomacy facing Australia—quantitatively larger than the challenges associated with the Common Agricultural Policy in Europe," the report said.

"Australia must recognise it as a centrally important issue in bilateral relations with China, building on shared interests in internationalisation," it said.

The report, Grain in China, produced by the influential East Asia Analytical Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, argued that economic reform will continue in China, leading to more wheat imports.

Report authors Ross Garnaut and Guonan Ma said that China, the world's largest producer of grains, had already begun reforming its grain markets, liberalising prices and removing most government subsidies.

"It will be difficult for China to reach anywhere near self-sufficiency while giving its people the consumption standards they demand," Garnaut told a media briefing.

"The path to reform is a painful one, but it does have its own momentum," Garnaut said.

Grain, along with iron and steel, and textile fibres, were three areas of opportunity for Australia.

China produces about a fifth of the world's grain, including rice, while Australian produces under two percent, most for export, with an estimated harvest of 14.5 million tonnes.

The report estimates that, provided the reform of the market continues, Chinese imports of grain will increase to between 50 million tonnes and 100 million tonnes by the end of the century.

As total world trade is currently around 150 million tonnes, this could have a dramatic effect on the world grain market.

"The Australian share of an expanding Chinese market would depend on the professionalism for Australian business in making effective use of the opportunities," the report said.

Nearly all the grain growth in China will occur in feed grain which is not for human consition but is used indirectly in the production of meat, eggs, fish, milk and liquor.

New Zealand

Plutonium-Carrying Ship To Enter Tasman Sea

BK1712045692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The New Zealand prime minister, Jim Bolger, said a Japanese ship carrying radioactive plutonium is expected to enter the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand today on its way to Japan from Europe. The ship, Akatsuki Maru, is ferrying plutonium from France for use in Japan's nuclear energy program. Mr. Bolger has said he does not want the vessel anywhere near New Zealand, but his government has no power to block its passage on the high seas.

A number of island countries have protested against the ship starting for Pacific on grounds that it might cause an environmental disaster in the event of an accident.

Solomon Islands

Government Accuses Papua New Guinea of Incursion

BK1712081092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Solomon Islands says it believes Papua New Guinea [PNG] troops are planning another cross-border raid into its territory. The claim was made by the Solomon Islands intelligence service after a PNG helicopter made a reconnaisance flight over the Shortland Island bordering Bougainville.

Police in Honiara say the incursion occurred on Tuesday and the helicopter was flown by a European pilot. They said it was a second such incursion in a week. Solomons paramilitary personnel were quoted by the government radio as saying the flight was thought to have been for the purpose of taking espionage photograph. A policeman spokesman said the flight confirmed information intercepted by the Solomon Islands intelligence service of a plan by the PNG Defense Force to carry out a cross-border raid into Solomons territory during the Christmas period.

Solomons radio said PNG is understood to have assured the Solomons Government following two earlier cross-border raids that such incursion would not be repeated. PNG officials have not commented on the report.

Minister Criticizes Australia Over Bougainville

BK1812053692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The deputy prime minister of Solomon Islands, Sir Baddeley Devesi, has criticized Australia for not being more active in resolving the Bougainville crisis.

Speaking in parliament, Sir Baddeley said Australia must realize that as a regional power, it had to take a leading role in resolving crises. He told Radio Australia he considered Australia was partly responsible for the crisis in Bougainville since it gave over $350 million annually to Papua New Guinea [PNG] in aid. He said Australia should use its relationship to pressure the PNG Government in solving the crisis.

The Solomons deputy prime minister added that rather than taking such a high profile role in areas where the United Nations was already involved, as in Cambodia and Somalia, Australia should look to its own back door.